

THE TIMES
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Challenger faces big challenge
The space shuttle Challenger lifted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, on its most challenging flight, during which it will retrieve and repair a disabled satellite. It will also launch a 9.5-ton satellite, carrying 57 experiments, the largest satellite ever carried by a shuttle
Photograph, page 6

Jenkins defends gun purchase
Mr Roy Jenkins said he had authorized the Metropolitan Police to purchase a sub-machine gun when he was Home Secretary in 1976 because he and his advisers believed they were necessary if a "burst-in response" was needed when hostages' lives were at risk.

Broken pledge
Health ministers have gone back on a three-year-old promise to double the number of hospital consultants by 1996
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School strike
Leaders of the National Union of Teachers have proposed a one-day national strike in protest at the employers' refusal to increase a pay off
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Reagan's war
President Reagan has declared war on Congress. In a Washington speech he tried, for the second time this week, to blame it for recent foreign policy setbacks
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Mr Clive Feigenbaum resigned as chairman of Stanley Gibbons, the stamp dealer, after the company was refused a stock market quotation
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Jacobs tours
Ron Jacobs, president of the Rugby Football Union, will travel to South Africa as England's tour manager next month to forestall any political pressures
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Glittering gold
Gold has regained its shine for dozens of entrants in The Times/Money Programme Unit Trust Competition this year and, on cue, Britannia's Gold and General Trust has reached second place
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A campaign aimed at virtually eliminating measles starts in the autumn
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Ballot hope doomed if Scargill plays it by the book

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The miners could be deprived of a secret pithead ballot on the "rolling strike" in their industry by senior level manoeuvring within their union rule book, it was disclosed last night.

Moderate pit leaders who will demand a national poll at next week's meeting of the executive committee of the National Union of Mineworkers fear that the left-wing president, Mr Arthur Scargill, will rule the proposal out of order.

A step of that sort would require a two-thirds majority to overturn, which the pro-ballot camp on the 24-member executive could not muster at the gathering in Sheffield on Thursday. The stoppage, which has closed down 122 of the industry's 176 pits, would then continue indefinitely without a ballot.

A leading moderate who declined to be named said: "I think Arthur Scargill will rule out of order a national ballot because it is not national action we are involved in. He knows that if he accepts a resolution for a national ballot there is a majority on the executive in favour."

Coalfield union leaders mandated or ready to vote for an early poll of the men on industrial action are understood to be in a 14 to 10 majority. But if the nature of the argument is shifted to a vote for or against the president's ruling, some would be released from their union mandate and would back Mr Scargill.

The miners' president has consistently quoted rule 41 of the union rulebook. The rule gives the national executive power to sanction "a stoppage of work or any other industrial action short of a strike" in any of the union's constituent areas as the authority to back the strike.

The strike, now in its fourth week, has engulfed Yorkshire, Scotland, South Wales, Kent, Durham, Northumberland, most of Lancashire and parts of the Midlands.

The *Times* source said last night: "A national ballot will be called for. His (Mr Scargill's) answer to that will be that it is not in order, it is not national action. It is the Scottish area and Yorkshire, and under rule 41 we agreed that if any other area also encouraged members to take strike action we would make that action official in those areas. I think that is what he will do."

The miners' president was attending a local authority dinner in South Yorkshire and was not available for comment.

Such a move would be constitutional, but it would "bring the wrath of the public down on his head," the moderate union executive member added. An alternative move gathering support among the centre-right group on the executive is to go hard for a national ballot with an appeal for strike action.

The union's rule book is clear on that point. It would require a 55 per cent majority of those voting to sanction a stoppage. An opinion poll last weekend suggested that 51 per cent of the men would opt for all-out industrial action.

A second signatory of the six-union declaration to blockade coal movements yesterday opted out of the agreement. The Transport, Salaries, Staffs Association, the white-collar rail workers' union, decided not to take sympathetic industrial action.

The 29-member executive of the association voted unanimously to instruct its 40,000 members to work normally. Mr Bert Lyons, general secretary, said support had been refused because there had been no official request from the miners' union executive.

Ravenscraig saved, page 2

NCB faces claim for £50m

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

The National Coal Board, which has already lost export orders because of the miners' strike, now faces a £50m bill for compensating its main customer for switching to alternative fuel.

The Central Electricity Generating Board has spent £50m on 500,000 tonnes of heavy fuel oil on the Rotterdam spotmarket to keep its power output up during the dispute and to preserve its coal stocks.

The CEBG has said that it will seek government compensation for turning to oil, as electricity produced by oil-burning stations is up to two-thirds more expensive than that produced from coal. And it is increasingly likely that the cost of the compensation will be passed on to the NCB accounts.

The CEBG has still to draw up its compensation claim, but has already said it expects that the Government will meet the extra cost of increased oil-burning.

The Department of Energy said yesterday that discussions had not yet started on how the CEBG should be compensated for having to use more oil. Nor had it decided whether increased compensation would be granted if stocks of Australian coal were prevented by other trade union action from being moved from the Dutch stockpiles to the Thames coal-fired power stations.

The CEBG has been compensated for increasing oil consumption during previous industrial disputes. In 1982, the extra £17m cost of burning oil during the train drivers strike, which halted coal deliveries, was met by the Government, and recovered from British Rail, through deductions from its subsequent Government grant.

Sir Walter Marshall, CEBG chairman, is determined that while the industry should pay for its own mistakes and reap the rewards of its successes, it should not be expected to pay extra costs incurred because of external interference or by meeting government requests.

The strike has already resulted in coal contracts being cancelled. The Scottish coalfield has lost a 140,000 tonne order and in the Midlands NCB managers are concerned that a 750,000 tonne annual contract with Northern Ireland could be lost to foreign competitors because of action being taken by the National Union of Seamen.

The coal from Northern Ireland - one of the few areas of the United Kingdom where coal still has a significant share of the domestic market - is being produced by the Midlands coalfields still working, but is being "blacklisted" by the seamen.

Mr Martin Curdren, the NCB Midlands marketing director, said: "Already shipments of foreign coal are being unloaded from foreign ships to take over the market and I expect more American and Polish coal to be diverted to the Northern Irish market if the seamen's action continues."

The Scottish coal fields are also dependent on the Northern Irish market.

Arthur 'Bomber' Harris dies aged 91

By Rupert Morris

Sir Arthur "Bomber" Harris, Chief of Bomber Command from 1942 to 1945, has died aged 91.

Sir Arthur, who died at his home in Goring, Oxfordshire, on Thursday, was one of the outstanding military figures of the Second World War. But his reputation suffered with the saturation bombing of German cities and he never achieved the peerage that many felt he deserved.

In 1942, he said in a broadcast to the German people: "We are going to scourge the Third Reich from end to end, if you make it necessary for us to do so."

Postwar historians were critical of his tactics, as were military and political leaders at the time, apart from Sir Winston Churchill.

It was only when Churchill became Prime Minister again in 1953 that the Airman was awarded a baronetcy.

Recently, historians have taken a different view of Sir Arthur's role, and the writings of Albert Speer, Hitler's armaments minister have suggested that British bombing was a crucial factor in keeping the German air force on the defensive.

Sir Arthur is survived by his second wife, Therese, whom he married in 1938.

Obituary, page 10

Shooting was reported around the presidential palace in Yaounde, the Cameroon capital, in what appeared to be a coup attempt against President Paul Biya. Sources said elements in the Army mounted the attempt.

The normally stable, relatively prosperous West African country was cut off from the outside world: Yaounde radio went off the air.

The whereabouts of President Biya was not known. It is speculated that pro-Biya forces are pitted against rebels supporting Ahmadou Ahidjo, who stepped down in 1982.

Full report, page 6

The agony of living on borrowed time

By Michael Horsnell

Brenda Barber went into the operating theatre for a heart-lung transplant knowing that the only two other patients to undergo such surgery in Britain had died. But when she was taken off a ventilator in the intensive care unit at Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, yesterday morning, she was sure she had made the right decision. So was her husband.

"She knew it was her only option because there was no medication to be had," Mr Stephen Barber said. "She had been living on borrowed time as it was, and we agreed that it was worth the risk for however much time it might give her - two years or a lifetime. The operation did not come a minute too soon."

Mr Barber described seeing his wife, aged 36, in the special "bubble" room where she is recovering: "She had red in her cheeks and lips for the first time since I can remember and her lungs were working properly. You could see them doing their job. She is smiling and very happy."

"She just said: 'It's nice to be able to breathe again'. You cannot imagine how much of an understatement that is. It means a whole new life. There have been times when her coughing and breathing have been so bad I have thought 'That's it; she's going'."

That agony reached a peak during the past six months as Mrs Barber lay in a London hospital bed with an oxygen mask clamped to her nose, her lips and fingers blue as she laboured for breath. Then, in the early hours of Thursday,



Mr Barber: 'Her only option'

she underwent transplant surgery which took more than five hours. Her husband was at the hospital, holding a good luck charm, throughout the night.

"I am not an optimist nor a pessimist. I am a realist and I know that Brenda is definitely going to get better," he said. "I haven't gone weeping into corners and feeling bitter or angry. That wouldn't have helped Brenda and she gets her strength from me."

The Barbers, who live in Lewisham, south London, met when both worked for the same supermarket chain and "were married 11 years ago. Within a year, Mrs Barber had started to cough constantly and went to see Professor Margaret Turner-Warwick at Brompton Hospital, who diagnosed fibrosis - a condition which congests the lungs.

Her condition remained stable for eight years, but then began to deteriorate two years ago, leaving her scarcely able to move and unable to cuddle her young daughter, Samantha Jane, now aged five. Doctors told Mr Barber that her only chance was a heart-lung transplant. That was a year before the programme of such surgery began at Harefield Hospital, west London. Brenda Barber was not told until much later.

"She was terrified, but she is a very brave lady," Mr Barber said yesterday. "Her brother's death (at Papworth awaiting a heart transplant) and the deaths of the two previous heart-lung patients has not helped. But it was a question of saying that here there is hope whereas the other way there was none."

Continued on back page, col 1



At the hop: Prince Andrew and Miss Yon on the Jamestown dance floor

A 'princess' for a night

An island beauty became a princess for a night as Prince Andrew pulled her out of a crowd to dance. Mr John Massingham, the Governor of St Helena, tried to get the Prince to watch a local dance from a balcony, but the world's most eligible bachelor had other ideas.

The Prince smilingly waved his finger at Miss Deborah Yon, aged 21, who moved through the crowd of 600 dancers towards him. Then the couple walked back on to the stone floor and danced for about four minutes as a band played "Love really hurts without you".

The Prince met Miss Yon, who lives just outside the island capital, Jamestown, earlier on a

Continued on back page, col 4

Tories will revolt against rates Bill

By Julian Haviland, Political Editor

The Government's heavy and contentious programme of legislation to reshape local government, came under fresh attack yesterday from its supposed friends, as well as its enemies.

Three former Conservative Cabinet ministers, Mr Francis Pym, Sir Ian Gilmour and Mr Geoffrey Rippon, demonstrated that they will vote next week against the Bill to cancel next year's elections to the metropolitan county councils.

Mr Pym, who is a member of the House of Lords to delay the rate-capping Bill which it is to debate on Monday.

Mr Patrick Jenkin, Secretary of State for the Environment who is responsible for both measures, counter attacked with four speeches delivered on a tour of Merseyside and Greater Manchester, promising better and cheaper local government.

Mr Roy Hattersley, deputy leader of the Labour Party, speaking in Truro, said that to cancel elections for fear of the wrong result was the first step to tyranny. He said the Greater London Council and the six English metropolitan councils were created by the Conservatives in the belief that they would have Tory majorities.

Their crime was to have elected Labour to positions of control.

Mr John Cunningham, Labour spokesman on the "Paving Bill" to prepare for the abolition of the metropolitan authorities was a constitutional outrage. It would pave the way to wholesale dislocation. The former ministers and

five other Conservatives have signed an amendment objecting to the second reading of the Paving Bill, properly entitled the Local Government Interim Provisions Bill on Wednesday.

The amendment says that Parliament should first approve legislation for the transfer and future administration of the services conducted by the authorities which are to go.

Sir Ian, who like Mr Pym, was dismissed from office by Mrs Thatcher and like him has made full use of his freedom to dissent, said yesterday that their view was quite widely supported. "The Bill seems to have a number of defects", he said.

Mr Cunningham said Labour would encourage the dissenting Tories to join them in the lobbies.

The challenge to the rate-capping Bill in the Lords may be more severe. The Opposition has tabled an amendment which would not deny the Bill a second reading, in defiance of today's conventions, but would add a rider so severely critical that the Government are treating it as a direct challenge.

Some unhappy Tory and crossbench peers will vote with the Opposition, but Government whips are being heavily persuasive, and are confident of winning.

The academic lobbyists, headed by 21 professors, have written to the peers to ask them to ensure that "the fundamental values of traditional local government and democracy are not damaged by the Government's proposals."

Leading article, page 9

Zola Budd can run for Britain

Zola Budd, the holder of three unofficial athletics world records, could be running for Britain at the Olympic Games in Los Angeles next August. She was granted British citizenship yesterday, having left her home in South Africa two weeks ago because her country is barred from international competition.

At 17 she is the most exciting track prospect in the world. She has recorded a time seven seconds faster than the official world record for 5,000 metres and is the leading junior over 1,500 and 3,000 metres. Most of her running is done in bare feet because she regards shoes as a physical handicap and she is uncommonly slight, at 5ft 2in and 6st 2lb.

Her size may prove her undoing in Britain where races are often physical. So far she has only run against the clock because South Africa cannot provide the high level of middle distance competition which is available in Britain.

Mr Leon Brittan, the Home Secretary, hastened the processing of Miss Budd's application before her eighteenth birthday next month.

Zola Budd's challenge, page 29

Poland settles war of crosses

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

Poland's bitter "war of the crosses" ended yesterday with a compromise between the Government and the Catholic Church. The month-long dispute, which began with the ripping down of crucifixes from schools, was a serious irritant in the delicate relations between church and state and proved something of an embarrassment to the Jaruzelski leadership.

Priests in the Garwolin district south-east of Warsaw, said the compromise means that the students in the Stanislaw Siazic Agricultural School will be allowed to keep a crucifix in their library and their dormitory and will also be allowed to wear crucifixes around their neck.

They will not be obliged to sign loyalty pledges and the school - closed after clashes between riot police and the students - will reopen on Monday.

The two teachers dismissed by the authorities for their support of the students will be reinstated.

The church has thus gained most of its objectives. But the crucifixes in the seven lecture halls in the school will not be replaced and the Government has made it clear that it will continue to remove crosses from schools, colleges and other State-run institutions.

It claims it is doing this to demonstrate clearly the separate status of church and state and to affirm that it is the Government which is responsible for the education of young people.

The action may have been started to appease hard-line Marxists in the Communist Party. But if so, the operation has misfired, demonstrating the strength of support for the church rather than the secular authorities.

Bishop Jan Mazur, whose diocese includes Garwolin and Mielno where the school is situated, met the students yesterday and told them he would continue his strict bread and water fast until the school reopened on time on Monday.

About 250 of the 600 students attended class yesterday. The others were barred because they had not signed a declaration stating their loyalty to the state and their acceptance of the rules of the school. Signing this declaration will be waived under the terms of the compromise.

Several dozen - some estimates say up to 450 - priests throughout Poland have joined Bishop Mazur in his fast to put pressure on the Government.

Miss Anna Walentynowicz, the veteran human rights campaigner, has been released from prison in Katowice and taken to the Warsaw Oncological Clinic for treatment of cancer. The case against her - for inciting public unrest - will be suspended and the trial postponed indefinitely.

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The Queen being greeted by her son on her arrival at RAF Benson with the Duke of Edinburgh yesterday.

Rudy Narayan to bow out from the Bar

By Frances Gibb, Legal Affairs Correspondent

One of the Bar's most flamboyant characters is to lay down his wig and gown to become a solicitor.

Mr Rudy Narayan, champion of black rights and bête noire of the legal establishment, says that he is "fed up" with the restrictions on a barrister.

But although he denies any shortage of work, he said "I have had enough of being held hostage by solicitors and looking over my shoulder for a brief."

He is disillusioned, too, with the financial rewards at the Bar. "What disgusts me is that a man as brilliant and good looking as myself should earn far less than solicitors of much less competence."

Mr Narayan, who was called to the Bar 16 years ago after seven years in the British Army, intends to "return to the grass roots" and set up on his own or in partnership in Brixton.

With his application accepted by the Law Society, provided he



Mr Narayan: "Too many restrictions on a barrister."

Illegal station on air

Pirates keep the Greeks happy

By David Hewson, Arts Correspondent

Londoners can now stop adjusting the aerials of their VHF radios when they hear noises resembling the authentic soundtrack of any downtown Greek taverna.

The crackle of bouzouki which can be heard on most days around 104 MHz is not the product of an Aegean station diverted to colder climes by odd atmospheric conditions.

It actually comes from a secret address in the more grimy quarters of north London where the capital's expatriate Greek community has suddenly discovered the joys of local - illegal - radio.

The station is known as LGR to the thousands of Cypriots who have begun to follow it although one legal radio official has unkindly called it "Zorba the Pirate".

It is the only one of London's 36 or more known pirates to broadcast in a foreign language, and most of its listeners appear unaware that it is illegal.

LGR operates from a box number in London's N19 district and has promised listeners that it will extend its VHF broadcasts into stereo in the next few weeks and build up its medium-wave output, which is close to Radio London.

LGR operates a particularly Mediterranean form of punctuality in its services. According to one listener, the station can be heard from mid-morning until around 9pm, although some days it does not go on air at all.

He said: "The music's quite good conventional Greek popular music - not pop at all. They sometimes have a radio soap

opera serial from Cyprus on the Greek football results are popular, and there are lots of listeners' dedications.

"They all speak Greek with a Cypriot accent, sometimes not very well."

Although LGR has made an impact on London's Greek community, anyone who knew of its whereabouts was reticent on the subject yesterday.

Running an illegal radio station can attract substantial fines, and immediate confiscation of equipment, but the Independent Broadcasting Authority has recently complained that insufficient legal action is being taken against the new wave of pirates.

Its advertisers include one of Britain's largest Cypriot wine distributors, a Cypriot tour firm and a Greek café bar.

Prince flies in to greet Queen

Prince Edward surprised the Queen by putting on a flying display of his own yesterday when she visited the Queen's Flight headquarters in Oxfordshire.

The Prince flew in at the controls of an RAF Bulldog trainer half an hour before the royal Andover arrived.

It was the climax of his first week of flying training at RAF Abingdon, less than 10 miles from the Queen's Flight at RAF Benson. "What a nice surprise," the Queen said.

After Prince Edward accompanied the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on a tour of the Queen's Flight hangar, the Queen watched her youngest son, aged 20, take off again.

"During the actual take-off, as on the landing earlier, the controls would have been taken by the flying instructor sitting alongside him," an RAF spokesman said. "But once in the air he would have been flying himself, as he will have been doing all week."

Guide dogs are 'most likely to go blind'

The dogs most commonly used as guides for the blind are more susceptible to blindness than other breeds, an international conference of veterinary surgeons in London was told yesterday.

The breeds most likely to be affected by eye disease are Labrador Retrievers and German Shepherds.

The three-day conference, organized by the British Small Animal Veterinary Association, was attended by 1,200 veterinary surgeons.

They discussed ways in which blindness can be treated and prevented. Another source of concern was inherited disease in pedigree dogs whose popularity has increased greatly in recent years.

The problem is particularly acute for breeders and pet owners because many of the diseases are not immediately apparent.

Tikhonov future in doubt as speculation grows over Soviet premiership

From Richard Owen, Moscow

There are conflicting signals over the future of Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the 78-year-old Soviet Prime Minister as the crucial Central Committee and Supreme Soviet sessions approach.

Mr Konstantin Chernenko faces his first top level Party and Government meetings as leader next week, with organizational and personnel matters on the agenda. The new Supreme Soviet convenes on Wednesday for the first time, after national elections last month.

It will affirm policy decisions taken at a Central Committee plenum expected to take place on Monday and Tuesday although no announcement has been made. Plenums normally last for two days.

Mr Chernenko is widely expected to become President as well as party leader at the Supreme Soviet. But there is speculation over the premiership, the third important post in the collective leadership.

Mr Tikhonov will be 79 next month and although he appeared fit at his failed attempt at a Kremlin meeting on agriculture last week, he reappeared on Tuesday at an international metalworking exhibition in Moscow, accompanied by Mr Geidar Aliyev, aged 60, who was pointedly given his full title as Politburo member and first Deputy Prime Minister by the Press.

Informed sources said Mr Chernenko was a compromise choice as Party leader on February 13 and might not be able to make personnel changes so soon after his election. The



Mr Tikhonov: Failed to attend Kremlin meeting

question of the premiership was none-the-less "in the air."

If Mr Tikhonov did step down candidates for his job include Mr Aliyev and Mr Vitaly Vorotnikov, the 57-year-old Russian Federation Premier, who was a close ally of Mr Andropov.

Observers believe Mr Chernenko will preserve the factional balance on the Politburo itself rather than trying to promote his supporters. The key ideology portfolio in the Secretariat remains vacant, but Mr Chernenko is against giving the post to Mr Mikhail Gorbachev, Mr Andropov's 52-year-old protégé, since it can be a stepping stone to the top. Both Mr Andropov and Mr Chernenko held the post.

Mr Tikhonov loyally served both Mr Leonid Brezhnev and Mr Andropov as Prime Minister, but was closer to leading Brezhnevites, including Mr Chernenko, whom he proposed for the leadership in February.

The younger Andropov protégés, however, would prefer someone more in tune with the Andropov economic experiments, which are being kept alive by Mr Gorbachev. He is the most senior party secretary after Mr Chernenko and the Kremlin's unofficial second-in-command.

Mr Aliyev featured prominently at last week's Politburo meetings with Colonel Mengistu, the Ethiopian leader, alongside Mr Andrei Gromyko, aged 74, who is also a Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister.

Mr Gromyko is expected to make a major statement on East-West relations at next week's meetings in response to remarks this week by President Reagan.

On Thursday Moscow said Mr Reagan's call for a ban on chemical weapons was a propaganda trick designed to camouflage America's own build-up of chemical arms. On Wednesday Mr Chernenko called for the reactivation of détente.

But a headline comment in *Pravda* shortly afterwards accused Washington of spreading false rumours about secret Soviet-American consultations.

Sources said that if Mr Chernenko did become President next week he would be better able to meet foreign leaders. It was not necessarily a sign of his power since it now seemed to be an assumption of Soviet politics that the party leadership and the presidency went hand in hand.

Mr Chernenko is already chairman of the Supreme Defence Council, an appointment mentioned in passing by the Chief of Staff, Marshal Ogarkov, recently, but not yet officially announced.

Spain angry at France over Basque programme

Madrid - Spain handed a note of protest to France for what it called the "one-sided" treatment of the Basque problem and defence of terrorism in a programme on French television (Richard Wigg writes).

A member of ETA's military wing and ETA supporters were interviewed but there was no spokesman for Madrid. The protest is one more expression of the strained relations between the two countries.

De Lorean jury choice near

Los Angeles (Reuters) - After 15 days of intensive questioning, the first phase of jury selection for the trial of John De Lorean on drug charges ended with a list of 60 prospective jurors.

The 60 will be questioned again before a final panel of 12 jurors and four alternates is chosen for the trial of Mr De Lorean, the carmaker who is accused of conspiring to import 220lb of cocaine worth \$24m (£17m).

Asylum refused

Stockholm - Sergeant Antonio Glass, of the US Army, born in the Dominican Republic, has been refused political asylum in Sweden. He defected first to East Germany where he claims to have given the authorities details of CIA activities.

Korean offer

Tokyo (Reuters) North Korea said it was ready to meet South Korean sports officials for preliminary discussions on sending a joint team to the Los Angeles Olympics. Four officials would go to the border village of Panmunjom on Monday to discuss an agenda.

Envoy stays

Jakarta - In an apparent reversal of policy, Papua New Guinea has agreed that Indonesia's defence attaché in Port Moresby should not be recalled until the two countries can discuss the alleged incursion of Indonesian fighters into Papua New Guinea airspace.

Kenya find

A five million year-old fragment of a lower jaw, believed to be the oldest human fossil yet known, has been found at Tabarin, near Lake Baringo, in northern Kenya by a joint expedition from the National Museum of Kenya and Harvard University.

Bribes charge

Vienna - Thirteen Hungarians working for state-run companies have been charged with accepting bribes totalling £250,000 from foreign firms.

Happier cows

Stockholm-Swedish cows are being fitted with plastic discs impregnated with insecticide to keep their heads free from flies in the summer. Scientists say they give a higher milk yield as a result.

Kurds give Iraq one last chance

By Edward Mortimer

Negotiations are to resume soon in Baghdad for what may be a decisive round between the Iraqi Government and the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, one of the main groups fighting for Kurdish autonomy in Northern Iraq.

The Patriotic Union's leadership, hitherto backed by Syria, has close links with Iranian Kurdish groups which are fighting Ayatollah Khomeini's regime and are therefore backed by Baghdad.

Last year, the Patriotic Union was persuaded by these groups to open talks with the Iraqi Government, Baghdad, hard pressed in the war with Iran and anxious to avoid fighting on two fronts, was willing to offer concessions.

A preliminary agreement was reached last December after a secret visit to Baghdad by Mr Jalal Talabani, the Patriotic Union leader, and was to have been announced on January 1.

But, to the Kurds' surprise, no announcement was made. The Iraqi regime appeared to be backpedalling, and the Kurds attributed this to increased Iraqi self-confidence after the visit to Baghdad of Mr Donald Rumsfeld, President Reagan's special envoy.

The Patriotic Union broke off the talks last month after Iraq executed a number of young Kurds who had been arrested for draft-dodging. However, according to Patriotic Union sources, the Government then hastily sent two "high-level officials" to the Kurds' mountain headquarters to persuade them to resume the talks.

Although not convinced, the Patriotic Union agreed to send a delegation to Baghdad, setting a time limit to settle outstanding issues. It regards these talks as the final and decisive round.

Meanwhile, Iranian Kurds believe Tehran is about to begin a series of offensives against them.

UK beats trade path to Russia

From Our Own Correspondent, Moscow

Britain is hoping that forthcoming visits to Moscow by Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, and Mr Paul Channon, the Minister for Trade, will lead to a marked upturn in Anglo-Soviet trade.

Diplomats said yesterday that this in turn could consolidate the improvement in political relations which followed Mrs Margaret Thatcher's talks in Moscow at President Andropov's funeral in February and the visit to London last month by Mr Georgy Kornienko, the Deputy Soviet Foreign Minister.

The diplomats were speaking on the eve of British Technical Week in Moscow, a big effort to boost British technology in Russia.

Thirty leading British companies are taking part, including ICI, BP, Shell, John Brown, Babcock Engineering and Boots, as well as specialized companies such as Quest Automation and Flexibox.



Bandleader ill: Xavier Cugat, Hollywood's King of Rumba, aged 84, who is in a critical condition in Barcelona. He was once married to Rita Hayworth.

Dealing in the murky world of arms

Tehran turns to unlikely allies

By David Cross

Ayatollah Khomeini's regime is again stepping up its efforts to obtain increasingly scarce supplies of arms for its creating war machine's protracted struggle with Iraq.

Western analysts trying to sift through the propaganda and rumours to discover which markets are still open to Tehran, are convinced that it is now heavily dependent on the private, mostly illegal market. It is particularly the case with much-needed spare parts for its tanks and aircraft, and electronic equipment for its sophisticated armaments originally supplied by the Shah's Western allies.

In a rare admission of the problem posed by its inability to purchase equipment directly from the United States or most Western governments, a senior Iranian official said recently that his country was having to pay middlemen three times the normal price for most weapons on the open market. This was making a large dent in the \$10bn (£6.6bn) earmarked each year for the war.

Outside the free market, the most important official suppliers of arms to the Iranian regime are in the communist camp. North Korea, which supplied 40 per cent of Iran's arms imports in 1982, worth some \$800m, is probably still the largest.

According to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), Tehran took delivery from Pyongyang of up to 150 T-62 Soviet tanks during the past two years.

There have also been persistent reports that North Korea is acting as a surrogate supplier for large quantities of Chinese arms. These were reinforced this week when the *Washington Post* disclosed details of a \$1,300m (£890m) three-year deal involving 36 fighter aircraft, T-59 tanks, 130mm artillery and light arms. SIPRI has received unconfirmed reports that 10 of the T-62s, based

on a Soviet MiG design, have been delivered under the Shah.

Unofficially, however, several West European countries, including Britain, Italy, Greece and Switzerland, have been willing to provide what they claim is non-lethal aid and equipment.

The British Government acknowledged this week, for example, that it was training a number of Iranian officers on a Swiss-made anti-aircraft fire control system.

Mr George Shultz, the American Secretary of State, told *The Times* in a recent interview that Britain's supply of spare parts (probably for Centurion tanks) was "unhelpful".

Switzerland, which officially bans all arms sales to war areas as part of its traditional policy of neutrality, delivered six Pilatus training aircraft to Iran last year. The sale caused a political storm.

Arms resupply and other support to Iran 1980-83 (sometimes without Government sanction or knowledge)			
Country	Major weapons before war	Major weapons during war	Other support during war
United States	yes	yes	yes
Soviet Union	yes	yes	yes
China	yes	yes	yes
France	yes	yes	yes
Greece	yes	yes	yes
Italy	yes	yes	yes
Britain	yes	yes	yes
East Germany	yes	yes	yes
Switzerland	yes	yes	yes
Iran	yes	yes	yes
Syria	yes	yes	yes
South Yemen	yes	yes	yes
North Korea	yes	yes	yes
South Korea	yes	yes	yes
Taiwan	yes	yes	yes
Vietnam	yes	yes	yes
Algeria	yes	yes	yes
Libya	yes	yes	yes
South Africa	yes	yes	yes
Argentina	yes	yes	yes
Brazil	yes	yes	yes

Not officially sanctioned: private dealers and individual companies; often via Israel.
Via Libya, North Korea, Syria and Warsaw Pact countries.
Last three of 12 Kaman-class attack craft ordered 1974.
Small arms, ammunition or spares.
US-made air-to-air missiles for F-4 Phantom fighters.
Training, advisers or troops.
Armoured vehicles via Libya.

Source: World Armaments and Disarmament, SIPRI Yearbook, 1984 (to be published June 21).

Bill to tighten law on child abduction

COMMONS

A Bill to tighten the law on the abduction of children from the United Kingdom completed its passage through the Commons.

Sponsored by Mr Timothy Wood (Stevenson, C) the Child Abduction Bill replaces the offence of child stealing contained in the offences against the Person Act 1861 with two new offences, one to deal with child abducted by a parent or other person connected with the child and the other to cover cases of abduction by people unconnected with the child. Penalties under the Bill range up to imprisonment for up to seven years.

During the report stage, amendments, moved by Mr Wood, were agreed to extending the groups of children to be covered by the Bill to include those in care, those subject to place of safety orders, and those who had reached certain stages in custodial and adoption proceedings.

He said that these were important categories, the largest being children in care - children for whom parental rights were vested in local authorities or voluntary organizations. It was estimated that 10,000 children of 12 years and less were boarded out by local authorities.

Mr Nicholas Lyell (Mid-Bedfordshire, C) said that in cases which might be described as "tugs of love" people were moved to do things which, on careful reflection, they would realize were foolish and could be damaging to the child they purported to love.

One thing was to buy tickets for the child and themselves and get on boat or aircraft and go abroad. It would be a pity if the Bill were to be enacted with these children at risk left out.

Mr David Mellor, Under Secretary of State, Home Office, said that nothing would prevent a determined ruthless parent taking a child out of lawful custody of a parent

domiciled in Britain and going overseas, or in the case a British parent going and working abroad for the sole purpose of taking a child away from the care of the mother, though they stood mightily to do it, always to enforce custody orders in overseas jurisdiction.

The problem was compounded by the inadequate and anomalous criminal law so that it was difficult for the police to intervene effectively. A child could be abducted and on a plane in a matter of hours but there were also distressing cases where it was days before a child was removed from the jurisdiction, but the former wife was unable to obtain effective police assistance, even though the police might wish to give it.

They were hoping to close most of the loopholes concerning Scotland where the law is different. The Secretary of State for Scotland was referring these matters to the Scottish Law Commission to tighten up all the arrangements.

There were people who took a child just because they wanted to, not to harm the child criminally. This was improper and plainly against the interests of the community and damaging to the child. Even though no sexual harm was caused, the law should be clearer on the remedies and the Bill addressed itself to that.

It also dealt with the most sinister aspect where an estranged parent hired a gang of thugs to carry out an abduction.

It is the most wicked aspect of the whole business (he said) and I am delighted Mr Wood has dealt with it effectively and comprehensively replacing all the mass of outdated legislation.

At any one time there were some 46,500 children in the care of local authorities. Last year more than 6,000 safety orders had to be made. These figures were in addition to the 10,000 children in foster homes, so the total children in this group was some 60,000.

If parents failed to retain care and control over their children and the local authority had an order taking the children into care, it could not be acceptable for a parent or anyone else to interfere with what the local authority was doing. Such children were entitled to the protection of the Bill.

Mr Wood said it was right that a person should not be allowed to remove a child from lawful and legitimate control and leave the country thereby destroying any possible legal redress within the civil law of this country.

Any dispute should be resolved within this country. The situation would consent if aware of the circumstances, had taken all reasonable steps to communicate with the other person but had failed, or that the other person had unreasonably refused to consent.

It was important, he said, not to put people under the threat of a lengthy prison sentence merely for taking a child abroad on holiday.

His amendment ensured it would fall to the prosecution to prove absence of belief rather than for the defence to prove its presence.

Mr Ivan Lawrence (Barnet, C) said it was almost impossible for the burden to be on the prosecution to establish that a man had any particular belief.

A subjective test of what a person believed was needed. Possibly the right wording might be that there would not be an offence if the person had reasonable grounds for believing that there had been or would be consent.

Mr Mellor undertook to look at the matter again. In some other important statutory offences the burden of proof was placed on the prosecution for matters which some could say forcedly did lie very much within the knowledge of the defendant. Only by casting the net wide could they be sure of catching all the cases that ought to be caught.

The amendment was agreed to.

New clauses to prevent a parent taking a child to Scotland and thence out of the United Kingdom were agreed to.

The report stage was concluded.

●The Juries (Disqualification) Bill which widens the categories of offenders barred from serving on juries, was read the third time by 46 votes to nil.

●The Betting, Gaming and Lotteries (Amendment) (No 2) Bill which will allow bookmakers to install furniture and other amenities and advertising in betting shops was also read the third time.



Wood: Children in care covered

should not be allowed to continue where a child could simply be taken abroad, so destroying the hopes and aspirations of those who properly had control of the child.

The amendments were agreed to.

●Mr Wood moved a further amendment that a person would not commit an offence under the section by doing anything without the consent of another person whose consent was required, if he believed the other person had consented.

Democratic trio wheel and deal for the Pittsburgh steel vote

From Christopher Thomas, Pittsburgh

The Rev Jesse Jackson slept on a water bed in a poor house in a depressed street in Pittsburgh the other night. It was the Wargo family home. They are penniless, white and looking for work, like tens of thousands of people in this old steel town.

Senator Gary Hart was at the McKeesport Steel Castings Company, looking animatedly at a pile of mouldings for steel valves. Like scores of smoke-stack firms in Pittsburgh, the company is barely viable.

Mr Walter Mondale was standing in the rain and telling people that he favoured government loan guarantees for the Wheeling-Pittsburgh Steel Company. Like his two rivals for the Democratic presidential nomination, he knows that steel is what you talk about when you come to Pittsburgh.

So the campaign trail has moved to Pennsylvania, which will send 195 delegates to the national convention in San Francisco in July. It is the third highest state delegation, behind California and New York. The Philadelphia primary on Tuesday is critical for Senator Hart, who was badly wounded by his defeat in New York this week. On present indications, Pennsylvania will do what New York did - give Mr Mondale a victory, give Mr Jackson the black vote, and leave Mr Hart a deeply worried man.

A television debate between the three contenders, broadcast nationally from Pittsburgh on Thursday night, was a seamy and gentle affair compared with their previous encounter. They talked a lot about steel and car-making.

The Jackson phenomenon looks destined to be reinforced on Tuesday. His performance in the nomination race has far exceeded the most optimistic expectations of his campaign organizers. The most powerful black man in Philadelphia, Mayor Wilson Goode, is backing Mr Mondale but hosts of other prominent blacks are behind Mr Jackson.

Mr Jackson's campaign in Pennsylvania is being conducted almost exclusively in black neighbourhoods - a tactic which worked handsomely in New York. His campaign managers are confident that in Philadelphia he will outstrip both his rivals. The state offers rich pickings for him - few states have a higher percentage of black voters.

As happened in New York, the signs are that there will be a record turnout of black voters - all but a handful of them voting for the Baptist preacher.

There is a strange tendency among registered Democrats in

Pennsylvania to vote Republican in the general and other elections. As a result, the governor and both senators are Republican, although there are a million more registered Democrats in the state than Republicans. It is not a state on which any aspiring Democratic President can rely.

Another peculiarity is the extent of blue-collar support for the Republicans, even among the unemployed. The jobless rate is 11 per cent and rising. Yet, according to soundings carried out by both parties, President Reagan retains substantial working-class support.

As a Mid-Westerner, Mr Mondale is well established in Pennsylvania. The trade unions are a powerful ally. Mr Hart has been careful to court the state's high percentage of elderly voters - old people like his style. Mr Jackson is continuing to beat the civil rights drum.

Staying at a poor white family's home was a gesture for Mr Jackson's small but loyal band of white liberal backers. It also saved his shoe-string campaign the cost of a hotel. While he and his wife, Jacqueline, were turning in for the night in Custer Street - the Wargos were relegated to the sofa downstairs - Mr Hart has counted the proceeds of a £100 (£65) a head fundraising dinner at Hilton and Mr Mondale was travelling in his private jet.

Nixon refuses to say sorry

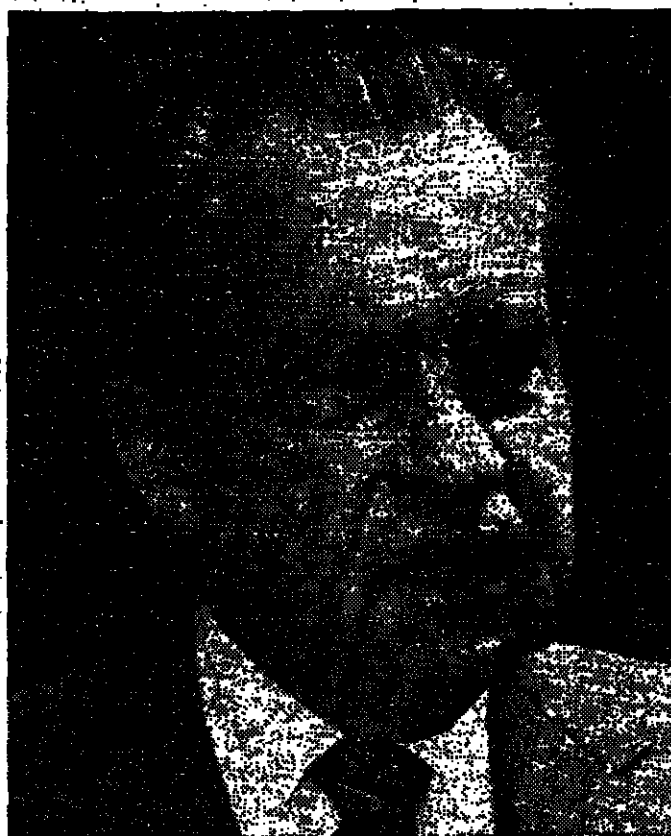
New York (Reuter, AP) - Former President Nixon, in television interviews to be shown on Sunday, said he should have destroyed the White House tapes. He described the break-in at Democratic Party headquarters in the Watergate Hotel as so clumsily handled that it might have been "deliberately botched".

The attempted cover-up "was stupidity at its very highest" - but Mr Nixon said he would not apologize to the American people.

He was interviewed for 38 hours last year by Mr Frank Gannon, a former White House aide who helped him write his books. Asked why, during the two-year ordeal, he never went on television and said he had made a mistake and was sorry, Mr Nixon said:

"There's no way that you could apologize that is more eloquent, more decisive, more finite, or to say that you are sorry which would exceed resigning the Presidency of the United States. That said it all - And I don't intend to say any more."

Mr Nixon said that his wife, Pat, suffered a stroke while reading *The Final Days* by the Washington Post reporters, Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein, who broke many of the Watergate stories. "I have nothing but contempt for them," he said.



Mar and nemesis: Former President Nixon, Mr Bernstein (top) and Mr Woodward, for whom he has 'nothing but contempt'.

The former President denied that he ordered a cover-up of the scandal, noting that "If I had thought (the White House tapes) revealed criminal activities, I would have been out of my mind not to destroy them."

While there was no excuse for the break-in, Mr Nixon said, he was occupied on important foreign policy issues and let others run his reelection campaign. "That was a mistake. I should have watched it. If I had been watching it, believe me, we wouldn't have ever bugged that."

Asked why he did not destroy the tapes, which caused him to resign to avoid impeachment, Mr Nixon said: "I must have had several thousand letters on that since leaving office. Stupid, (the tapes) should have been burned."

Army says subversives plotted to kill Aquino

From Keith Dalton, Manila

Military intelligence agents knew seven months in advance of plots among "subversive groups" to kill the Philippine opposition leader, Benigno Aquino, and at no time suspected plotters within the military or Government, the country's top military official said yesterday.

The Armed Forces Chief of Staff General Fabian Ver, testifying before a Commission of Inquiry into Mr Aquino's murder last August, admitted under cross-examination that first intelligence reports were "hazy" and based on coffee-shop talk.

The information about the plots to kill Senator Aquino was that some persons overheard them in restaurants and that is why they were hazy", the Commission's special prosecutor, Mr Andres Marvasa, said.

General Ver said the field reports from agents who were able to penetrate subversive organizations suggested that communist plotters were planning Mr Aquino's murder to implicate the Government.

He also said Mr Aquino told him of a conversation with Mrs Imelda Marcos in New York last May during which she said to have warned him that his life would be in danger if he returned home because there were "friends loyal to the Government who cannot be controlled".

Palme fails to salt the dragons' tails

From Christopher Mosey, Stockholm

Sweden's Socialist Prime Minister Mr Olof Palme, was criticized by opposition leaders yesterday for failing to lodge a strong enough protest concerning Russian submarine violations of Swedish waters in talks with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister, earlier this year.

Details of the talks on January 16 during the opening of the Stockholm Peace Conference have been leaked to both Sweden's national daily newspapers, *Dagens Nyheter* and *Svenska Dagbladet*, while the Prime Minister is paying a visit to the United States.

Mr Palme has bitterly condemned similar leaks in the past and is likely to launch his own investigation into the matter next week when he returns from New York.

According to the transcript of the talks now circulating among Swedish journalists Mr Palme told Mr Gromyko: "With reference to the reasons or difficulties in our relations, namely these submarine affairs, I would like to say the following: the situation as we see it now is that there are signs of alien activity around our coasts."

Mr Gromyko then asked ironically: "What are these dragons that you Sedes see in the Baltic?"

Mr Palme, who had earlier said that Sweden desired "good, correct and friendly" relations with the Soviet Union, then pointed out that the latest violations had not been blamed on any particular nation, the subject was then dropped.

The Conservative leader Mr Ulf Adelsohn, said it was remarkable that Mr Palme had



Mr Palme: Seeking good relations

not raised with the Soviet Foreign Minister the 1982 submarine incident off the Muskö naval base on the east coast and the subsequent protest to the Soviet Union last year.

Instead of talking about basic problems in relations with the Soviet Union, has Palme preferred simply to accept Soviet assurances that they respect our neutrality, said Mr Adelsohn, who went on to criticize official Swedish Government visits that have been arranged.

The Liberal spokesman, Mr Jan-Eric Wikström, said: "It is important that Sweden should make clear its point of view even if the Soviet Union disapproves of it."

Meanwhile General Lennart Ljung, Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces, has admitted the failure of the latest hunt for submarines off the Karlskrona naval base in south of Sweden.

In Karlskrona divers continued a search of the seabed for possible traces left by a submarine but all controls have now been lifted on travel

Maazel resigns as director of Vienna Opera

From Richard Bassett, Vienna

Lorin Maazel, the controversial director of the Vienna State Opera, resigned his post in Vienna yesterday. Despite hostility among the Viennese, especially the press, to his administration of the Opera House, he had given assurances that he would see his contract through to 1986.

But in a letter yesterday to the minister responsible for the arts, Herr Helmut Zilk, he said he would be unable to conduct the 120 performances.

Herr Maazel's decision follows the news earlier this week that Claudio Abbado would be the State Opera's musical director from 1987.

QE2 suffers two bumps in four days

By Richard Dowden

The QE2 has suffered two bumps in four days, a spokesman for the ship's owners, Cunard, has confirmed.

The first occurred when she berthed at Piraeus, in Greece, last Saturday night, damaging her bow beneath the waterline.

The second occurred on Wednesday morning when she made an unscheduled stop at Gibraltar damaging the bulbous bow when docking. The damage in both incidents is said to be not serious and the ship will be arriving on schedule at Southampton tomorrow morning after completing a three-month world tour with 1,200 passengers on board.

East Germany agrees to let embassy refugees go

From Michael Binyon, Bonn

Chancellor Helmut Kohl has talks here yesterday with Herr Günter Mittag, a senior member of the East German Politburo, as 35 East Germans who had sought asylum in the West German embassy in Prague five weeks ago left the building to return home, with a promise they will be allowed to emigrate to West Germany.

Another three East Germans in the West German diplomatic mission in East Berlin will also be allowed to leave. The East German Government made clear, however, that this was the last time it would agree to let anyone emigrate who went into a western embassy.

Herr Peter Boenisch, the Bonn Government's spokesman, said the talks had focused on the trade links between the two countries and their joint efforts

to cut environmental pollution. They also discussed the visit to West Germany this autumn by Herr Erich Honecker, the East German leader.

Herr Mittag, who has responsibility for economics and has been visiting the Hanover Fair, shared the Chancellor's satisfaction with the growth of inter-German trade, which last year rose by 8 per cent to a record of more than DM15bn (£4bn). Both leaders said trade was an important element in promoting East-West stability.

On the environment, which Herr Kohl had made a top priority for his Government, they agreed to see what steps they could take together soon to reduce pollution. Bonn is especially eager to cut airborne pollutants from the East which contribute to acid rain.

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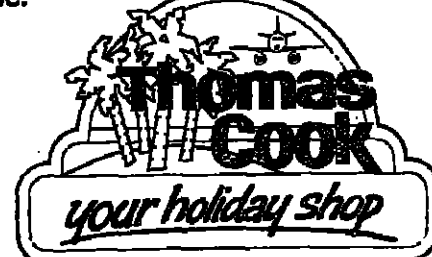
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Legal system in South Africa denounced for its grave defects

From Michael Hornsby, Johannesburg

Grave deficiencies in South Africa's legal system, which cause it to be held in contempt by many blacks, have been exposed and denounced by a Government-appointed Commission, under the chairmanship of Mr Justice Gustav Hoexter. It tabled its fifth and final report this week before Parliament in Cape Town.

Mr David Dalling, speaking for the liberal Progressive Federal Party (PFP), the official opposition, hailed the report as a public crucifixion of (Government) complacency, indifference, insensitivity, inefficiency, bureaucracy, incompetence, indolence, racial prejudice and bluster.

The Minister of Justice, Mr Kobie Coetzee, rejected angrily what he called the "PFP's political and unfounded" use of the report to belabour the Government. But he agreed to make it the subject of a special debate in Parliament.

Outside Parliament the report was widely welcomed in liberal circles. The commission was set up in November 1979, to inquire into the structure and the functioning of the courts. But in its final report it has gone well beyond its terms of reference to denounce the gross overcrowding of South Africa's prisons which, it said, were packed with large numbers of people, overwhelmingly black, who should not be in custody at all.

In particular, the Commission draws attention to "the hordes of blacks who land in prison as a result of influx control. Judged by civilized standards, these people are not real malefactors. They are the needy victims of a social system that controls the influx of people from the rural to the urban areas by penal sanctions."

The reason for this untenable influx is poverty. The Commission was referring to those blacks who violate the so-called pass laws which rigorously impoverished tribal reserves (about 14 per cent of the total land area).

Pass law offenders are prosecuted in special Com-

missioners' Courts which are separate from the rest of the judicial system. The Hoexter Commission recommends that these courts should be abolished, and that, with the exception of courts for chiefs and headmen, there should in future be the same courts for blacks and whites.

The prosecution of inhabitants of the same country in separate courts purely on grounds of race is "unnecessary, humiliating and repugnant", it says.

It says that the cramming of prisons with technical pass-law offenders has bred in many blacks "contempt for the administration of justice in general and the criminal courts in particular". It has also meant that "the serving of a prison sentence is no longer regarded as a stigma many black inhabitants of the country".

The Commission also highlights the high proportion of prisoners awaiting trial and says that persons charged with trivial offences have to spend up to 40 days in prison before trial.

It mentions one case in which two children under school age spent three years in prison because of a bureaucratic dispute over their racial classification.

In a series of other recommendations and criticisms, the report proposes that magistrates should no longer be employees of the state. It cites evidence that security trials tend only to be assigned to certain judges deemed likely to bring in a verdict desired by the Government, and says that in future judges should not be appointed by the Cabinet alone.

The report notes that South Africa has "one of the biggest prison populations in the world" - about 100,000 at any given time - and that as a result it "frequently happens that 20 or 30 vicious thugs have to spend the night together in one cell".

This, it says, breeds gangsterism and callous and gruesome murders of defenceless cell mates.

Bomb wrecks Transkei consulate offices

From Our Own Correspondent, Johannesburg

A bomb destroyed offices belonging to the Transkei consulate in the black area of Bloemfontein, capital of the Orange Free State, yesterday. No one was injured.

The explosion came a day after the South African Broadcasting Corporation reported it had received a telephone call from a man in Lesotho claiming responsibility for Tuesday's car bomb in Durban on behalf of the underground African National Congress (ANC) and threaten more attacks.

ANC headquarters in Lusaka, the Zambian capital, has not yet said that its guerrillas planted the Durban bomb, which killed three people - two Indians and a white - and injured more than 20 others. Mr Louis le Grange, the South African Minister for Law and Order, has said, however, that he is in no doubt

that the organization was responsible.

Transkei is one of four "independent" tribal homelands, but it is not recognized by the outside world and is regarded by black militants as an integral prop of the apartheid system. Last August, offices belonging to Ciskei, another homeland, were bombed.

There have been several bomb explosions in the Bloemfontein area in the past 18 months. The city is about 70 miles from the frontier with Lesotho, an internationally recognized black state.

Observers have been expecting the ANC to launch a wave of bomb attacks to show that it has not been rendered ineffective by the Nkomati accord, under which Mozambique agreed to stop the territory being used by the guerrillas as a launching pad.

EEC and US square up again

From Ian Murray, Knokke, Belgium

The EEC means to block any further increases in the huge quantities of animal feed which have been pouring in from America in recent years. It is a highly controversial move which is bound to bring charges of protectionism from the United States.

The Community's decision was made public yesterday by M Claude Villain, director-general of the Commission's agriculture section. It means that the Community wants to limit the amount of feed imports to 2.9 million tonnes a year.

Negotiations opened yesterday before the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) in Geneva and the Community will have to pay compensation to the United States if there is to be a deal.

M Villain gave the news in a speech to a conference in Knokke looking at the strained state of relations between the United States and the Community.

There was an immediate response from Mr Richard Lyng, the American Deputy Secretary of Agriculture. He viewed such proposals with "disappointment and discouragement". He added: "These types of actions can lead to counter-actions and they in turn lead to trade wars". But Herr Wilhelm Harferkamp, the External Affairs Commissioner, said: "I do not see any danger of trade war ahead of us".

Lord Soames, one of Britain's first commissioners, felt that the United States would be "fairly fed up" with European progress.

Shuttle soars into orbit to service a satellite



High-fliers (from left): Mission specialist Terry Hart, pilot Dick Scobee, Captain Robert Crippen, Dr George Nelson and mission specialist James van Hoften

Another chapter in space history

From Trevor Fishlock, New York

The space shuttle Challenger lifted off from Cape Canaveral, Florida, yesterday at the start of another chapter in space history. A key part of the six-day mission is the first space service call, the retrieving and repair of a disabled satellite.

On Sunday, 300 miles above the Earth, Dr George Nelson, one of the five astronauts, will leave the shuttle and steer himself across 300ft of space

with the aid of a jet-propulsion backpack. He will grasp the wobbling 5,000lb Solar Max satellite and wobble it on to a stable course so that Challenger can manoeuvre closer and retrieve it with its robot arm.

The satellite, launched four years ago, will be hauled inside the shuttle's cargo bay for repair. A failed electronics system will be removed and a new one inserted. If all goes

well, the satellite will be put back into orbit to continue its study of the Sun. Should the repair be unsuccessful, the satellite will be shipped back to Earth.

This is the eleventh shuttle mission, the fourth flown by Challenger, since the programme started in April, 1981. The commander is Captain Robert Crippen, a space veteran who flew the first shuttle

Lift-off: Challenger on its most challenging mission

Zimbabwe bishops voice grave concern

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

Zimbabwe's Roman Catholic Bishops yesterday expressed "very grave concern" over reports from Matabeleland. But a statement issued after their annual plenary session refrained from condemning army operations in the troubled province.

The Bishops said they would continue to consult the Government "with a view to trying to alleviate suffering and safeguard human rights".

The statement, signed by Mr Tobias Chiginya, president of the conference, follows allegations in a sermon last weekend by a priest, Father Jon Gough, that the army was involved in an attempt to wipe out the minority Ndebele tribe. Father Jon Gough, the Army for atrocities against civilians and said it was time the church spoke out.

Some bishops were known to have been angered by Father Gough's sermon. They believe the interests of congregations in Matabeleland would be best served by private discussions with the Government.

Australians all

Sydney (AP) - The Cocos Islanders have voted to join Australia after generations of feudal rule. In a 100 per cent voter turnout, 88 per cent opted for union with Australia in preference to independence or free association.

Mending fences with Malaysia

Britain to return historic house

From David Watts, Kuala Lumpur

Mrs Margaret Thatcher has agreed to return Carcosa, the residence of the British High Commissioner in Kuala Lumpur, to Malaysia.

Carcosa, a fine colonial house on a promontory with commanding views over the centre of the Malaysian capital, was a gift to Britain by the Chief Minister of Malaya, Tunku Abdul Rahman, a year before the country became independent in August, 1957.

The house was "to show in some permanent form an appreciation of the long and friendly association we have had with the British people".

A senior figure in the Malaysian Government said Mrs Thatcher offered to return Carcosa to Malaysia during a visit to London by the Malaysian Prime Minister, Datuk Seri Dr Mahathir Mohamed, in March last year.

It is understood that the Malaysians are to pay a considerable sum in compensation for the return of the house and the valuable land, and to provide an alternative site.

The British High Com-

mission declines to discuss Carcosa.

Malaysian-British relations are now back on a steady footing, having gone through a period of extreme sensitivity after Dr Mahathir assumed power.

The return of Carcosa must be seen as the latest element of a series of moves aimed at taking some of the hate out of the inevitable love-hate relationship between the colonial power and its former colony. Its return has long been one of Dr Mahathir's aims.

But the residence's return will not find unanimous approval in either London or Kuala Lumpur. To most Malays it is in bad taste to seek the return of a gift.

It will see the end of an era for another of the great landmarks of British colonial history, and surely one of the most exotic and romantic British buildings in South-East Asia, with its views over the residence of the Malaysian Prime Minister and the Parliament, and the serried, misty ranks of jungle-clad mountains in the distance.

Tunku Abdul Rahman insisted that Carcosa was not a

symbol of the past relationship of "colonial masters and servants", but of a new one based on equality. To his latter-day successor only the return of the house with its wooded grounds could finally signify that equality.

Carcosa was the creation of Sir Frank Swettenham, who became the first Resident General of the Federated Malay States in 1896.

It was then the residence of the most senior British civil servant in Kuala Lumpur until the arrival of the Japanese.

Sir Frank Swettenham said the rather mystical name Carcosa came from a book by Robert W. Chambers, *The King in Yellow*, which he was reading as the house was finished.

Sir Frank was taken with this verse:

Along the shore the cold waves break, the twin suns sink beneath the wave, the shadows lengthen in Carcosa.

Strange is the night where black stars rise, and twin moons circle through the skies, but stranger still is lost Carcosa.



Downing Street visitor: Sir Edward Youde, Governor of Hong Kong, after talks with Mrs Margaret Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey Howe yesterday on the future of the colony

Build-up in the Bekaa

Beirut (Reuters) - Israel and Syria have been building up their forces along the frontlines in the Bekaa Valley in Lebanon for the past three days, a senior official at the Lebanese Defence Ministry said yesterday.

Commenting on Beirut press reports of a build-up, he said reinforcements had been under way in the western sector of the valley since Tuesday, and the Ministry had received reports of "limited exchanges" of fire since Wednesday with a number of casualties on both sides.

The troop movements were continuing, the official added. He declined to indicate their extent or to comment on their possible significance. Political observers noted that previous troop build-ups in the area had not brought clashes between the two armies.

A military spokesman in Tel Aviv declined to comment on the reports. There was also no word from the Syrian Army.

The Government is to issue a special Lebanon "clasp" on the 1962 General Service Medal for British forces who served with the international peacekeeping contingent.

Treaty being violated, Israel says

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Less than two weeks after the sour fifth anniversary of the Camp David peace treaty, Mr Moshe Arens, the Israeli Defence Minister, yesterday accused Egypt of violating its spirit by building up the infrastructure for a field army, including four armoured divisions, on the east bank of the Suez canal.

In an interview with Israeli radio, Mr Arens voiced Israeli Government concern over the Egyptian military moves, which he claimed created the conditions for the speedy transfer of large forces into Sinai over and above the limit set

The Defence Minister's warning took one stage further the criticism of Egypt which has been delivered separately by a number of leading members of the Israeli Cabinet to coincide with the anniversary of the signing on March 26.

Grenada criticism rejected by Howe

By Rodney Cowton

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, yesterday rejected criticism of his handling of the Grenada crisis last October.

A report by the House of Commons Foreign Affairs Committee, published on Thursday, criticized the Government's "lethargic" handling of events leading up to the American invasion of the Caribbean island on October 25.

The Government's response to the committee's report will be published in May, but yesterday Sir Geoffrey said: "I do not accept criticisms of our handling of this subject in the days leading up to the invasion. It seems to have been overlooked that much of the report is appreciative of the difficulties facing the Government in Grenada and of our success in minimizing the damage which the episode did to relations within the Commonwealth, especially between Caribbean countries, and with the United States."

It is quite clear that Sir Geoffrey has been angered by the charge of lethargy. In Whitehall it was pointed out that during the weekend leading up to the Tuesday invasion Sir Geoffrey was attending a meeting in Athens and the Prime Minister was at Chequers.

Nevertheless, over that weekend 10 telegrams were relayed to them on Grenada, and a similar number passed between London and Washington. Between October 19 and 24 there were about 15 telegrams

Washington keeps a low profile

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The Reagan Administration is anxious to bury the controversy arising from its failure to consult the British Government fully just before its military intervention in Grenada last October.

Officials have carefully avoided public comment on the British parliamentary committee report which said that the US deliberately withheld information from Britain about the invasion.

At the time Mrs Margaret Thatcher and other members of the British Government complained about the lack of consultations between Washington and London about the American military intervention in a Commonwealth country.

But American officials have said privately that the British were generally aware of what was being planned four days before the invasion.

US airliner 'buzzed' in Berlin lane

Bonn - Another Western airliner flying to West Berlin was involved in an incident with a Warsaw Pact military fighter on Thursday, a Pan American Airways spokesman confirmed.

He said an unidentified aircraft, presumably Soviet, flew close to and around a Pan American airliner as it crossed East Germany on its way from Frankfurt. The plane was more than a mile away and there was no danger to passengers, but it is the second confirmed close sighting of military aircraft by Western passenger aircraft to Berlin in two months.

Pledge against press curbs

Port Louis (Reuters) - The Mauritian Prime Minister, Mr Anceood Jugnauth, said his government has no intention of muzzling the local press, currently up in arms against a controversial Bill they see as a threat to press freedom.

"The government is open to dialogue and it does not intend to interfere with press freedom," he said in an interview yesterday.

Gandhi tour hit

Delhi (Reuters) - Mrs Gandhi, the Indian Prime Minister, has dropped Egypt and Algeria from a planned tour of four Arab nations because of communal strife in Punjab. An extremist Sikh group has threatened to kill her son Jaiiv.

Unita contact

Britain has made new contact with Unita, the Angola guerrilla movement holding 16 British hostages, sources said. They added that a message has been sent to Dr Jonas Savimbi, the Unita leader.

Exercise ends

The Soviet naval exercise which led to their biggest ever deployment of surface ships and submarines west of Norway this week appears to be over. Nato sources say all the ships have returned to Murmansk.

Cameroon Army mounts coup attempt

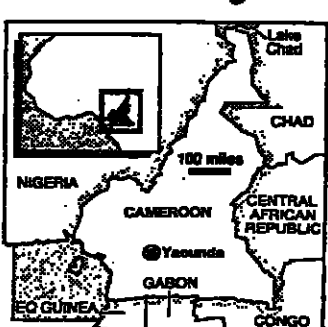
Abidjan (Reuters) - Shooting was reported yesterday around the presidential palace in the Cameroon capital, Yaounde, in what appeared to be a military coup attempt against President Paul Biya.

Western diplomatic sources in Paris said elements within the Cameroon Army mounted the attempt during the night and that fighting was continuing.

The normally stable and relatively prosperous West African country was cut off from the outside world yesterday afternoon. Radio Yaounde went off the air after playing martial music and telephone and Telex lines were cut.

The diplomats in Paris described the situation as confused and said the whereabouts of Mr Biya was not known. Neither did they know if there had been any casualties in the fighting.

French Foreign Ministry officials said they had no precise information on the disturbances. They said they could not confirm reports that a coup attempt had taken place



and said the fighting could simply involve rival army elements.

The French *Le Monde* newspaper reported that tanks had been seen moving towards the presidential palace in Yaounde. It quoted sources as saying the coup was being staged by elements of the Republican Guard, a unit largely composed of northerners and loyal to former president Ahmadou Ahidjo, now in exile in southern France, after falling out with Mr Biya, his hand-picked successor.

Le Monde said the rebellion was headed by a group of junior

officers who describe themselves as "liberal socialists". Yaounde residents contacted by telephone from Abidjan before the lines went down said they heard shooting around the presidential palace.

Diplomatic sources in Abidjan took the fact that no proclamation was broadcast while radio Yaounde, the country's only station, was still on the air indicated that the struggle for control of the country was still going on.

They speculated that forces loyal to Mr Biya, who is French-trained and a Roman Catholic, were pitted against rebels supporting Mr Ahidjo, a northern Muslim who stepped down in 1982 after 22 years in office.

Mr Ahidjo declined to say whether his supporters were involved in the clashes. But in an interview with a French radio station he said: "If they are, they will come out on top."

The sources in Paris said the army chief of staff, General Pierre Semengue, was reported to have been a target of the rebel troops. The general, a Roman Catholic related to Mr

Biya, was believed to have been arrested.

Cameroon, a prosperous and well-run nation of 9 million, became independent from France and Britain in 1960.

After Mr Ahidjo handed over to Mr Biya in 1982, relations between the two quickly soured. Mr Ahidjo left for France last July.



President Biya: Bitter dispute with predecessor

5,000 Hondurans march for human rights

From Alan Tomlinson, Tegucigalpa

A demonstration by nearly 5,000 people calling for an end to human rights violations in Honduras has followed the removal of General Gustavo Alvarez as chief of the country's armed forces.

The protesters, who marched through Tegucigalpa to the presidential palace on Thursday night, within hours of the investiture of the new military commander, General Walter Lopez, also called for the removal of foreign troops from the country.

This was clearly a reference to the presence of some 3,000 United States soldiers on manoeuvres with the Honduran Army and was the first public expression of mass anti-American feeling since the exercise began last August.

The purpose of the demonstration was to demand the release of more than 100 people said to have disappeared during the two years that General Alvarez held office. The protesters called for

respect for human rights, punishment of civilian and military officials responsible for past abuses, an end to trade union repression.

In a statement to the press, General Lopez characterized the barracks coup that deposed General Alvarez as an essentially patriotic act which reaffirmed the duty of the armed forces to remain apolitical and obedient to the constitution.

WASHINGTON: The Republican-controlled Senate has given President Reagan's Central America policy an important victory by approving his request for about \$62m (£43m) in emergency military aid for El Salvador and \$21m to help rebels fighting Nicaragua's left-wing Government (Mohsin Ali writes).

The Senate vote on Thursday after a week of debate was 76 to 19 in favour of the President's request. But the Appropriations Bill now faces stiff resistance in the Democrat-dominated House of Representatives.

THE ARTS

Theatre

Home of the brave

Poppie Nongena
Riverside

One characteristic of South African theatre at its best is that it makes you feel more proud of belonging to the human race than ashamed of the injustices that it inflicts on itself.

Here, for instance, is the true story of a woman whose family undergoes slow strangulation by the Pass Laws, but the emotions it excites are sympathy and admiration for the heroine, rather than hatred for her administrative tormentors.

Adapted from Elsa Joubert's book, the play consists of a pointless journey interrupted by brief phases of peace and harmony. Poppie and her family first appear in their coastal home town, blissfully removed from the passbook areas; but no sooner has she married than all the women are directed to Cape Town, leaving the men behind. Reunited with

her husband, she is then directed to another distant "homeland" to bring up her children unaided in a roofless house. Every time she puts down roots, the authorities tear them up again; and in the end, she is left alone, working for a white mistress, her husband dead and her children under arrest.

You see some of the ugliness in Hilary Blecher's production (which began life in the Johannesburg Market Theatre). Two Afrikaner police enter the Cape Town house and, after a show of correct procedure, smash the place apart in pursuit of a fugitive. The 1976 Soweto uprising is presented with a stick dance, terminated by a round of machine gun fire. But otherwise violence is restricted to off-stage shouts and hammering on corrugated iron.

What consistently occupies the central focus is the behaviour of Poppie and her family under these shattering conditions. Neither the text nor the

performances are deliberately built up as noble. Also the victims speak their minds: it just happens that they speak them without self-baiting rancour. Dignity and restraint of this order cannot be faked; and there is as much expression in their styles of movement and in Sophie Macina's music (unaccompanied group anthems that spring up as spontaneously as spoken dialogue). These are people used to carrying heavy weights and walking long distances.

When Poppie's ailing husband (Sabelo Maredi) manages his one trip to visit her, the key detail is the sight of his arrival in cheap shoes and no socks, carrying a metal box on his back. Nothing in Thuli Dumakude's heart-breaking title performance counts for more than her mute scene after his death, where she sits beside the box, reverently inspecting its contents like so many dead children.

Irving Wardle

Dance

Rough with the smooth

Royal Ballet
Covent Garden/
Sadler's Wells

Third time lucky: with changes of cast on three successive evenings, Sadler's Wells' Royal Ballet last night came up with a winning cast for *Ravennas*, in which Margaret Barbiere and David Wall both found the grandeur and radiance for the leading roles. Watching Barbiere let the music lead her through her solo, enjoying the clear, bright expansiveness with which she holds an arabesque long enough for the beauty of the line to sink in, one realises that she was able to see Fonteyn dance and is gifted enough to keep alive the style she learnt then.

This role was not, perhaps, an ideal choice for Ana Botafogo's debut as a guest with the company. She is Brazilian and a number of the company in Rio de Janeiro. Her solo dancing on Wednesday showed a strong all-round technique and a serious approach, but her long slender trunk and feet are not matched by the length of leg which detracts from her classic line.

More romantic parts may show her to better advantage.

Roland Price partnered her attentively, but his dancing is too uneven to be really satisfying; the excellence of some steps makes the rough finish of others inexplicable. Among the soloists, Karen Donovan, Clare French and Lilli Griffiths have all shown flair and Alain Dubouil leads the Hungarian panache.

The new *Petrushka* has also had some new casts, although fewer than planned, because of injuries. Grahame Lustig's account of the title part is sound but lugubrious until the last few bars, when he gives the rage of the puppet's ghost a manic ferocity. More light and shade earlier would help. David Binley, also playing that role, as I reported from Eastbourne last month, is easily the best British dancer I have ever seen in it. One amazing thing about his performance is the way he repeatedly evokes the many drawings Benois made of the character.

Michael O'Hare took the leading male role in *Les Rendezvous* last night. His trim

physique and cheerful manner suit it, though he will impress more if he can bring his turning steps, pirouettes and *tours en l'air*, to the same degree of security and brilliance as his beats.

Although Sadler's Wells has claimed most of my time these past few evenings, it was interesting on Wednesday to watch the first ballet at Covent Garden before dashing off to Rosebery Avenue, and to see in *Rhapsody* how Ashton recycles and develops some movement patterns from *Les Rendezvous* which he made all those years earlier. He is as frugal with steps as Stravinsky was with notes - and as successfully so.

The ballerina role was taken by Ravenna Tucker, with Wayne Eagling replacing the injured Anthony Dowell in the male lead: bizarrely eccentric in his solos, but strong in support for Tucker. Her crisp footwork was, as always, a joy, and this role revealed a soft, fluent plasticity in her shoulders and upper body that made the most of her good *épaulement* and brought a smoother, more lyrical quality to her dancing.

John Percival

Radio

How uncultivated

First we had *Snapping* - Gill Brown's documentary account, broadcast in February 1982, of one manifestation of "brainwashing", or how the Moonies, the Children of God and other contemporary cults recruit and keep their members. Last week we had *Snapping Out* (Radio 4, March 31 and April 2, director, John Cawley). This was a play by Martin Worth about the other end of the story - the process by which converts come to renounce their conversion or, as in the true instance on which this play was based, by which they are more or less forcibly deprogrammed.

I say "play", but this script was a good deal closer in tone, though not in construction, to the dramatized documentary, with dialogue too obviously dedicated to conveying essential information, and therefore

short on natural movement and spontaneity. But *Snapping Out* nevertheless managed to impart a good deal of first the bafflement, and then despair, of parents Anne and Michael Swatland (played by Jane Wenham and Jack Watling) as their daughter Susan (Lesley Dunlop) first refuses to come home from a holiday in California and then, when they go to see her, proves to have put up an impenetrable wall between her parents and herself. Persuasion does no good and they resort, as many parents are reported to have done, to illegal abduction and deprogramming.

The process worked, and listening to this representation of it, I was surprised: it sounded

so innocuous. Yet what we heard - based on Susan's and Mrs Swatland's own account - was presumably accurate. Perhaps I listened with too many dramatic expectations of confrontation, tension, struggle. In the event Susan just gave up, quite suddenly. Why? Perhaps because she had been taught to fear deprogramming and it was not frightening. Perhaps too, because when the unremitting pressure of cult life is removed, the elastic human being tends to assume her or his previous psychological shape. I recall from my own youth that when certain university evangelists left me alone the same thing happened. I also recall that their methods were not totally unlike the Moonies' - but that was Christianity and no one said a thing.

Swimmer (Radio 3, April 1; director, Richard Worley) jointly won the 1983 Radio Times play competition for its author Christopher Russell, and quite right too. No lack of natural movement and spontaneity in this script, although in fact, like many such a vital piece of work, it was most cleverly and carefully contrived. Mr Russell's work told of Neil Crosby, crippled from birth with a withered leg, who develops a passion for swimming to the point that the water becomes his preferred element.

Taunted by the toughs of the local swimming team, he beats them at their own sport, detaches one of them from his girlfriend, and then persuades her to keep a night-time assignment with him at the

pool. Aquatic sex? Well, sort of. He takes her to the bottom of the deep end where, without his powers of underwater endurance, she drowns. End of play.

If this in outline sounds stark and even disagreeable, the telling made it into something quite different. It was a most skilful, even brilliant, bit of impressionistic playwriting which cut from place to place and time to time, but never lost its way. In the character of Neil Mr Russell quickly established the feeling of an obsession of enormous latent danger, portrayed superbly well by Julian Firth. If at first we might have been inclined to sneer at the playing out of a childhood addiction to *The Water Babies*, the inclination very soon departed.

We even began to see Neil's mother (Jane Wenham again - very good) and her extraordinary protectiveness as only mildly neurotic. When she finally revealed that her son when quite a tot had already drowned, the little girl in pursuit of his fantasy, her protectiveness looked even less unreasonable - protective not so much of him as of any others he might choose to cast as mermaids.

Among its other innovations this week, Radio 4 has come back to late-night drama with six connected plays by Alan Owen. *Earwig* (Saturdays; director, John Tydemann) has Hugh Burden impeccably cast as a talented restaurant eavesdropper, but I thought his first earful pretty tame - too many routine marital tensions, too few really good lines.

David Wade

London debuts

On the face of things, the programme that the Japanese pianist Kazuhiko Shigeno tackled promising a musically rewarding evening. He is clearly an artist armed with a formidable technique, but one of the worrying things about his recital was that he seemed chiefly concerned with communicating that fact, not least by making harsh sounds when he should have been more concerned with coaxing subtler colours from the instrument. Perhaps the hall's acoustic defeated him, though I can hardly believe that.

The most restrained noises were to be found, naturally, in the E minor Prelude and Fugue from Book II of Bach's *Well-Tempered Clavier*, played clearly if with a sometimes unsatisfactory balance between the voices in the fugue. But in Beethoven's Piano Sonata Op 31 No 3 the assault on the ear began in earnest. The heat of the musical argument was largely dissipated by Shigeno's timbre. Similarly, Chopin's

Fourth Scherzo is far from being merely a vehicle for pyrotechnics; but Shigeno would have us believe otherwise, denying the work the warmth and space that should be present even in this kind of Chopin.

It was the same story in Schumann's F sharp minor Piano Sonata, where Shigeno's technical command and stamina were mightily but empty impressive. In circumstances other than these Liszt's *Après une lecture du Dante* might have made a fittingly spectacular ending, but here it was as if we were simply listening to more of the same. Even this work has subtle aspects to it, but Shigeno seemed oblivious to them; moreover, for once some of the work's more outrageous technical challenges defeated him, but that mattered less than his unrelenting wearying aggressiveness.

Stephen Pettitt

Journey of a lifetime

Long Day's Journey into Night
Arts

The memory of great performances can linger for a lifetime, but the 12 years since the National's classic *Long Day's Journey* are enough to let this quite modest new staging stand in its own right.

Cast not starrily but strongly, Ludovica Villan-Hauser's production restores the intimacy of a chamber piece to O'Neill's family tragedy. This tiny theatre may have helped with the crucial problem of race projection can be light and for most of its immense length the play flows, as it should do, easily but unhurriedly, belying the passage of time.

For those who know the terrible descent to come, Darlene Johnson's performance is poignant the moment she walks on. Her last lines, so many hours later when drugs have imprisoned her in a haze of memories, speak of being wed and "happy for a time", but that lovely serene smile is already there as the family stroll in after breakfast on a fine morning, her fine husband relishing the day's first cigar.

She can love life for its little things as much as the rest of us; she seems as peaceful as the nun that she nearly became. All the crueller, then, when the anxieties and terrors crowd in, the hands twitch, the sweet face tenses, and thoughts turn to the hypodermic upstairs. Pairing her is the gruff and crazy Trevor Martin, not an obvious former matinee idol until he suddenly caresses her hands with a flood of romantic charm. How shocking, by contrast, is his late anguished embrace, calling her back to sanity when it is too late.

As for the boys, Michael Deacon's Jamie looks a bit old for 33, but his face has seen the whisky all right and his features are as fatherly as a map of Ireland. In his cups, if the lights are low, he looks uncannily like the old man.

With his centre parting and light moustache, Sean Mathias's Edmund might be a suave young officer invalided home from Gettysburg; there is little sign of the consumption that is



Painful descent: Darlene Johnson and Trevor Martin

driving the family wild with anxiety and, more important, no amount of charisma or vocal artistry can turn this cool lead into a frail, hypersensitive poet.

But all of them, not forgetting nicely judged intrusions from Wendy Miller's naive and scatty Irish maid, play as though they have inhabited this little world for years. The unresolvable bitterness over the dead child, Edmund's catastrophic birth or their life as theatrical nomads are as familiar as the easy-chair or the Shakespeare on the wall.

Silently acknowledged lies about the sneaked tot of John Barleycorn or shot of morphine, smouldering resentments about the past spoiling the present,

seem so accepted that when a suddenly uncontrolled Mary throws a glass of liquor over the cloth it seems worse than vitriol.

Only in the fourth act, which runs to 85 minutes, did control slip and, through nobody's individual fault, the brothers' late night recriminations and Jamie's Swinburne quotes as his mother, obviously drifts seemed to go on longer than usual.

All the same, so soon after one major O'Neill revival and just as another opens, it is a valuable chance to see the play that brings you deeper into the pain of his past than any other.

Anthony Masters

Television

A rocky landing

In 1979, the Vietnamese boat people caught the world's attention when they bought their freedom from the government and set sail, braving piracy and the hazards of the sea, to find a new life. The exodus took most countries by surprise, and for the most accessible places concern about the impact of large numbers of refugees on their economies overwhelmed sympathy.

Malaysia was one such country. It dumped 40,000 refugees on an island a quarter of a mile square, shipping in food and water. And there they waited in terrible conditions for countries to take them in.

World Affairs' US reporter Harold Williams and producer Clem Vallance made a film of their plight and, in a follow-up on BBC2 last night, considered the fate of some refugees in their new homelands.

America, most favoured in the expectations of the Vietnamese and therefore able to pick and choose, took half a million; Britain 16,000. In America, it seems they are doing fairly well. Unemployment among them is at the national average. The ones we saw in Tampa, Florida, and New Orleans, appeared to have adjusted to the American way of life.

In Britain, the picture was sadly different. Unemployment among the refugees is 80 per cent. It is feared that the

majority of those over 40 will not work again. Millions of pounds have been spent, and the government's good intentions were not challenged. But the policy of dispersing the refugees, adopted with the intent of avoiding ghettos, is now admitted to have been disastrous, by denying the Vietnamese the reassurance and capacity for self-help of their own communities.

Many have been unable to understand the concept of social security, the idea that people can be paid for not working. There has been a drift to the inner city areas to find comfort, not jobs, and possibly exploitation.

Mr Barry Denton, of the Ockendon Venture, said that despite Britain's tradition of receiving immigrants, he had been told many times that in its attitudes, Britain was not a country of migration. There was a saying, he said, that anyone who judged the first generation of immigrants was a fool; the second, an optimist; the third, a realist.

There were indications in the film, despite this sombre reflection, that the second generation encouraged by uncomplaining parents are integrating well and pursuing their education with vigour. Experience, with luck perhaps, will be confounded.

Dennis Hackett

WEEKEND CHOICE

"Best acting in the film", says Ken Russell, munching his way through a bag of cinema popcorn while on screen, penguins waddle to Ralph Vaughan Williams's score for the Ealing film *Scott of the Antarctic*. Something of the old devil in Russell does, then, survive in his *South Bank Show* film about RVW (tomorrow, ITV, 10.30pm). And something of the old darling. Who else, for instance, would have had the audacity to illustrate the "Pastoral" Symphony with shots of the composer's widow avoiding tanks on a muddy plain? Or the "London" Symphony, with director and widow jiving through sweeping coloured searchlight in the local "hop"? But Mr Russell is visibly mellowing, hence the film's book-ends in which he takes his tiny daughter through the pages of a picture book on RVW's life.

Only "Once upon a time..." is missing. Lavinia Warner's documentary *GI Brides* (tonight, Channel 4, 9.35pm) completes the story that *Yanks and We'll Meet Again* left unfinished: what happened to those British girls who did marry their American boyfriends and crossed the Atlantic to find out whether there really was a crock of gold at the end of the rainbow. "Traitor, traitor! You'll be sorry", jeered the British troops as the bride-laden Queen Mary steamed out of harbour. Some were sorry, ending up in a miners' shanty town, with goats tethered to lengths of string. But others found the crock and became millionaires' wives. Miss Warner's sad and funny film has been 40 years in the making. It was worth waiting for.

Peter Davalle

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If it's not in London, forget it

MUST THE ARTS DIE? Give the arts a chance

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Vital role of the arts - and that includes events in the provinces.

Viewspeak Sponsoring the arts

THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE FOR THE CAMPAIGN TO ASSIST THE ARTS

Never before have the arts been in such a parlous state as they are today. Unless immediate action is taken by the Government to redress the balance of funding and the removal of VAT from theatre, concert, opera, ballet tickets, artists materials and the hiring and sale of works of art, all branches of the arts will continue to decline and in many areas be subject to possible extinction.

Following on from a recent dinner given by the Sutton Manor Arts Centre in honour of Dame Elisabeth Frink DBE RA, it was resolved by those present to form the National Committee for the Campaign to Assist the Arts. The Committee have called a private meeting for leading personalities from all sectors of the arts at the Dorchester Hotel, (Ballroom Entrance) Park Lane, London W1 on Monday 16th April at 12 noon, to approve the following Resolution. The Committee would request you, as a member of the public, to join in by signing this Resolution and forwarding it to us at the address below:-

RESOLUTION

- The meeting notes that local authorities and the Arts Council have taken a substantial lead in the development of the arts in the United Kingdom over the past 30 years and that the six Metropolitan Authorities spent about £12 million on the Arts in 1983/84. It is the meeting's view that the proposals in the Government's white paper "Streamlining the Cities" could be potentially damaging to the Arts if future funding arrangements are left to the discretionary decision of ad-hoc consortia of local authorities. It is the meeting's view therefore, that to safeguard the current level of support for the Arts, formally constituted joint boards, involving all the successor authorities in each area be set up with the power to precept on local authorities in each area.
- It is the meeting's view that the position and role of the Arts Council be strengthened so that if central Government support for the Arts in the Metropolitan areas is increased, there should be no weakening of support for the Arts in the regions and provinces. A clear distinction must be made by the Government between support for the Arts in the Metropolitan areas and the regions. While support in the Metropolitan areas could be maintained under the joint boards recommended above, regional support should be increased through the Arts Council.
- The meeting recognises the enormous role private sponsorship of the Arts ought to play in Britain and urges the Government to encourage additional patronage by introducing a set of incentives to both the corporate and the private sponsor. These incentives should take the form of tax concessions and personal income tax relief. In outline, such incentives should

- include:
 - a. Tax relief against gifts and donations made to recognised art charities.
 - b. The period of deed of covenants in favour of charities should be reduced.
 - c. Company law should be amended to include donations and sponsorship of Arts as an allowable relief on corporation tax.
 - d. Gifts of works of art to art and educational charities should be exempted from capital transfer tax without limit.
 - e. The Government should immediately heed the call to abolish VAT where levied to the detriment of the Arts not only on theatre, opera and concert tickets, but also on the sale and hirings of works of art and art supplies. Such action would redress the anomaly that VAT is not levied on printed literature and the public printed news media.
- The meeting approves the National Committee for the Campaign to Assist the Arts to monitor the transition period of the Abolition Proposals as to ensure that Art funding will not suffer during and after the period of reorganisation, and that they should use the best endeavours to have their findings published as widely as possible in the national media.
- The meeting agrees that it is important to widen the constituency of public support for the arts and art related activity, so that instead of politicising the Arts, there is a genuine attempt to involve and to increase awareness of the public about the benefits of the Arts in an increasingly leisure based society; and agrees to a campaign which promotes the Arts through the media and other art related institutions.

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When completed please post this signed Resolution to

The Honorary Secretary
National Committee for the Campaign to Assist the Arts
Sutton Manor
(Freeport)
Winchester
SO21 3BR
(no stamp required)

I support the National Committee for the Campaign to Assist the Arts in their Resolution to be adopted at the meeting at the Dorchester Hotel, London on the 16th April 1984.

Signed

Name (Please Print)

Address

Date

If you are able to distribute further copies of this Resolution please indicate the quantity you require. Number of copies required in box

This advertisement has been contributed by Sutton Manor Arts Centre, Winchester, Hampshire.

Canada
ticism
jected
Howe

Rodney Cowton

Jeffrey Howe, Secretary of State for the Colonies, has been criticised by the Grenada government.

ort by the House of Commons. The Foreign Secretary, Mr Howe, has been criticised by the Grenada government for leading up to the invasion of the island on 13 March.

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SPORTING DIARY

How Happy the Valley

Hongkong
If you believe all you read in the papers, you may well be convinced that Hongkong is finished. If you actually go there, arriving in the bullish thunder of construction work, you realize that the place is not even completed yet. And you may have thought that Sporting Week, taking place just after Jardine Matheson had announced that it was moving to Bermuda — a rough equivalent of shifting the Bank of England to the Cayman Islands — would be somewhat depressing. Not a bit of it. Hongkong's lunatic sporting life continues as before.

Look no further than race meetings. As the stock market slithered, the Royal Hong Kong Jockey Club was notching up a new betting record for one meeting. In nine races, bets to the value of HK\$312,971,017, or more than £30m, were struck.

Being a trifle lunatic is certainly an asset when it comes to unravelling the form of Hongkong horses, or even braving the queue for hamburgers at the Happy Valley racecourse. But round about the time of the first Hongkong Derby, in 1875, there was a racegoer who took the lunacy idea a little too far. He believed that he was not a retired Indian civil servant at all, but was in fact a poached egg. The Hongkong crowd gave him every assistance, sprinkling his head with salt when he required it, and helping him when he was tired to sit down on his chosen piece of toast.

Even better

Asia's richest horse-racing event is not held in Hongkong, or even in Japan, but in the tiny Portuguese colony of Macao, 40 miles from Hongkong across the mouth of the Pearl River. This is the Caesar's Palace meeting at the Macao Trotting Club. Hongkong racing snobs might tell you this is a Mickey Mouse operation, but you might get a counter-argument from Chung Sai-yu. Mr Chung paid £14,000 for a horse called Best Time which promptly won the Caesar's Palace Gold Cup, worth £100,000. I hope Mr Chung had a bet — his horse started at 30 to 1. I have a feeling he did.

Old school undies

The visiting Public School Wanderers failed to cover themselves with glory when they came to Hongkong to contest the Hongkong Invitations Sevens last weekend. Our lads demonstrated the benefits of a good education by wearing pink sunglasses for the grand parade of teams from 24 countries, and carried umbrellas that spelled out, for the benefit of Hongkong morale, the dread word "Bermuda". A bad move: Hongkongers make their own in-jokes. Still, the Wanderers did show everyone at the tournament's official dinner that public school men all wear lovely underclothes. The Hongkongers thought the Fijians were much nicer.

All black

Football in Hongkong is a long way from the boom time of the early Seventies, but the first division still includes a goodly mix of imported players. They include Keith Robson, formerly of West Ham, Peter Bodak, formerly of Manchester City, Aarrie Haan, the Netherlands, Benny Wenda, a current Swedish international, and Neto from Brazil.

The most determined importer of them all is Veronica Chiu who, in her heyday as owner of the Caroline Hill Club, brought players into Hongkong from all over the world. One of the least successful was a black South African called Lucas Moripe. To make him feel at home, he was asked to share a room with a fellow countryman — an Afrikaner. When it was realized that this was a slight mistake, she promptly brought in another black South African, James Inthombeni. He was not from Moripe's tribe: in fact their two tribes had been at war for 400 years.

... all white

The Hongkong Chinese call Europeans Gwai-lo, or ghost people, because of their pale skins and other ill-omened attributes. In deference to the Chinese lover of puns, a team of European footballers from the outlying island of Lamma have called themselves Gwai-loong, or ghost dragons, a rough translation being "Super-wogs". They are acquiring new sponsored kit, but insist they will continue to play all in white. For the Chinese, white is the colour of funerals and death. "It gives us a vital psychological advantage," says their player manager, John Keir.

Simon Barnes

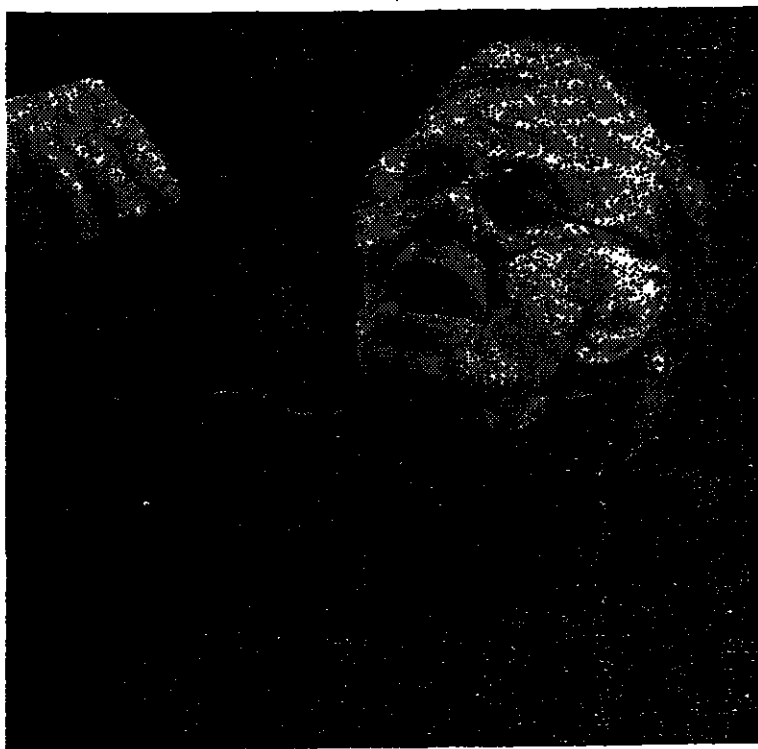
BARRY FANTONI



"Waddya mean, you'll complain about me to the captain? I am the captain!"

Bernard Levin: the way we live now

Catch this mole while you can



Goodall: thoroughness, care, fidelity

The curtain falls, rises to display the cast for their bows, falls, rises again, falls again, rises a third time. Only then does the audience see, embedded in the line-up of the singers like a wilting petunia in a bed of hollyhocks, a frail figure, blinking at the light like some tiny, furry creature woken from hibernation — an apt comparison indeed, for he bears an extraordinary likeness to the late Richard Goodall in full fig as Mole ("Oh, Toady, boasting again") in the stage version of *The Wind in the Willows*.

Until he appears, the applause has been warm; at the sight of him, however, the audience — 2,000-odd — bursts unanimously into so stupendous a yell of excitement, approbation and gratitude that it must have seismographs on the other side of the world goggling in disbelief at their machines.

Wriggling in embarrassment, he hides behind the nearest hollyhock. The curtain falls, however many times it rises again, no further glimpse of him is to be had, and the cast take the rest of the calls without him.

The story of Reginald Goodall is one of the strangest in British musical history. He is almost 83 years old; when the Covent Garden Opera Company was formed at the end of the Second World War he joined the music staff and for decades he has spent the greater part of his time coaching singers. Every now and again, Covent Garden would throw him a bone in the form of allowing him to conduct one or two performances of an opera already in the repertoire; up the road at Sadlers Wells he conducted the historic first performance, in 1945, of *Peter Grimes*.

Nearly a quarter of a century later, Sadlers Wells were to repay that debt, and to put us all in his for the rest of our lives. In 1968, when he was 67, he conducted a new production of *The Mastersingers*; first at Sadlers Wells itself and then, when the Sadlers Wells Company acquired the Coliseum as their permanent home and became the English National Opera, in the centre of London. It was the first Wagner production mounted with him in mind from the start; indeed, after the *Peter Grimes* at Sadlers Wells I know of no production, in the intervening years, of any other opera by any composer which was his creation.

That production of *The Mastersingers* was one of the most astounding musical revelations of modern times; for non-Wagnerians I can only convey the extraordinary nature of it by saying it was as though there was an actor and odd-job-man who had been on the books of the National Theatre for well over 20 years without ever being allowed to play any role bigger than the herald in Act V of *King Lear*, yet who overnight turned out to be one of the greatest Hamlets living. A friend of mine had been abroad at the time that *The Mastersingers* opened, and

returned to find all the tickets sold; he rang me to ask whether it was worth his persevering in the search for one. I told him that if his grandmother had a ticket he should murder her for it at once, that if the management would allow it he should hang from the chandelier by his teeth throughout the performance, and that if all else failed he should hire out his smooth white body for the use of rough sailors until he had earned enough to buy a ticket on the black market.

I don't know which of these stratagems he ultimately adopted; I felt it might be indecent to enquire. But whichever it was, he plainly thought he had got a bargain, and so said all of us. For my own part, I remember feeling that I had never heard the work before, so freshly studied was Goodall's reading, so meticulous was his attention to every detail, so spacious, unhurried and loving was his conception of the work.

Thus emboldened, the ENO launched upon their first ever complete *Ring*, which was cast, prepared and conducted, from beginning to end, by Goodall. The result was the same; a reading that got as close to the heart of that work's great mystery as any I had ever heard.

By now he was well into his seventies, when even conductors (a notoriously long-lived race) are thinking of retiring. Our shy Alexander, however, dried his tears at the thought that there were no more worlds to conquer, and struck up an alliance with the Welsh National Opera, which is based in Cardiff but has a most enterprising touring policy (as well as very high artistic standards). For them he

prepared and conducted a *Tristan*, with yet another immense success, and embarked on the last in the chain of works from Wagner's maturity, *Parsifal*, in 1983.

I laid my plans for a surprise raid on Cardiff, alas, at the last minute Goodall, by then well over 80, was compelled by ill-health to withdraw, and in the end he conducted none of the performances, which were given by Richard Armstrong.

Well, that was that; we who had been inspired by his Wagnerian productions over a dozen years wished him a long and happy retirement, and tried to be wise enough not to waste our time yearning for the performances we would now never be able to add to our collection. We reckoned, however, without the old gentleman in velvet ("Well done, old mole, canst work i' the earth so fast?"), so far from succumbing to age and his disabilities, he merely gave himself a good shake and embarked on an entirely new *Ring* for the Welsh National Opera.

It was the *Walküre* from the new cycle that I was describing in my preliminary remarks today; I had gone to Bristol for it. The cast was not outstanding, though there was a very promising Hunding from Roderick Earle; the production, too, was only adequate at its best (Act I) and for the rest of the time was idiotic even by the standards of *Ring* directors who think (wrongly) in every case that they are cleverer than Wagner — Wotan and Fricka lived, armed the permafrost, under the end of the Chiswick Flyover, with no furniture other than three marble tombstones in the shape and colour of supermarket cheddar.

No matter; Shaw long ago pointed out that the best way to see the *Ring* in an opera-house is sitting in a box with your back to the stage and your feet up, and the playing that Goodall got from the orchestra was of a quality to challenge comparison with any orchestra in this country. The Bristol Hippodrome has no pit; the orchestra simply occupied the front of the house, and were thus on a level with the stalls seats. This resulted in an exceptionally full volume of sound, made all the richer by the Hippodrome's excellent acoustics; but it also provided for a clarity of orchestral detail that was right up Goodall's street.

Along that street he marched with a musical tread that belied with its firmness at least 30 of his 83 years. Again, I had the extraordinary sensation that I was hearing the work for the first time (which, as my regular readers will know all too well, is by no means the case); there were passages — the orchestral interludes in the Farewell, the change of key just before we hear the Valkyrie theme at the beginning of Act II, the long threnody for Wotan's agony as the impending betrayal of his son — which I simply didn't recognize, not because Goodall was distorting them but because he was picking them out and shaping them with such thoroughness, care and fidelity that they were new-born in my ears.

It is a musical scandal beyond compare — and now, alas, despite Goodall's apparently inexhaustible youthfulness, beyond remedy — that we have never heard the great Wagner canon conducted by this great specialist in Wagner's works with a hand-picked international cast of the front rank; such singers as Norman Bailey, Rita Hunter and Alberto Remedios have been the equal of almost any contemporary singer of their roles (and in the case of Bailey's Sachs the superior) but no one could maintain that the general ensemble at either the ENO or WNO has that quality throughout, and neither orchestra, excellent work though they both do, can play Wagner like the Berlin, the Vienna, the Chicago, the Bayreuth under Furtwängler or Soli, the Dresden under von Karajan.

As Sancho Panza said, we must learn to itch where we can scratch. Music-lovers whose love encompasses Wagner will, if they have had the good sense and good fortune to get to Goodall's performances over the years, by now possess a store of memories (to say nothing of recordings) that will always illuminate the works for them, and will provide a standard by which to judge other performances. We might have had more, but it is no use crying for the moon, let alone the sun. Meanwhile, tonight, in Birmingham, he is conducting his last performance of *Die Walküre* this season. I don't suppose there are any seats left, but if your grandmother has a ticket...

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Woodrow Wyatt

Why we should all be contracted in

Labour Party income is running at something over £3m a year. Nearly all comes from trade union affiliation fees paid out of their political funds. In 1979, the political funds of the unions subscribed nearly £1m extra to the Labour Party for general election purposes, and in 1983 about an additional £2.25m. Without the political funds of the unions, the Labour Party would be in acute difficulties.

The new Trade Union Bill will require all unions to hold a ballot of their members to find out whether they want a political fund at all. According to a Gallup poll taken shortly after the last election, 39 per cent of trade unionists voted Labour, 32 per cent Conservative and 28 per cent for the Liberal/SDP Alliance. A number of larger unions may not have a majority for a political fund, but the continued, particularly as the assumption is that such political funds go almost entirely to supporting the Labour Party.

If that happened, the contrast between the comparatively rich Conservative Party, buttressed by donations from industry, and an impoverished Labour Party, but so an affront to democracy. If the new legislation is passed, union members will not be able to say how they would like any political funds decided on to be allotted between the three major political groupings. The Labour Party will take all. That will be rough on the Alliance, which has few big backers in industry. It will make no difference to the Conservative Party, which can get all the money it needs from the boards of companies well disposed to it.

There is also the matter of union members contracting in or contracting out of paying the political levy. Many trade unionists feel unable to surmount the obstacles, emotional and practical, put up against their contracting out. To avoid losing the inertia selling nature of the contracting out principle, the General Council of the TUC has made a bargain with the Conservative Party Secretary for Employment. It has promised that union members will be made much more aware of their right to contract out. But in unions where a political fund has been decided upon by ballot, and is maintained by ballots, which under the new legislation will have to be held every ten years, the social pressures not to contract out will remain very strong. Trade unions have for decades been giving promises of good behaviour, few of which have been implemented.

That is why 42 Tory MPs rebelled in the small hours of Tuesday morning in the hope of making the new law insist on contracting in instead of contracting out. Logically, and in terms of absolute democracy, they were right. Why should people be more or less compelled to

subscribe to a political party they don't believe in unless they are willing to incur the odium of their more militant colleagues by boldly opting out?

But the pact Mr King and the union leaders made was as much to protect the Conservative Party's finances as the Labour Party's. The quid pro quo for the Tories is that the next Labour government will not make it illegal for companies to subscribe to political parties.

A dirty deal has been done for which the justification is that democracy requires both the Conservative Party and the Labour Party to be financially secure. However, the party in the middle, by this crude application of democracy, is to have little or nothing.

A better approach would be to recognize the democratic necessities. Political parties ought to have the resources to do their propaganda adequately, if the public are to have the facts and arguments to choose between them. This should not be confined to the two major parties. The Liberal/SDP Alliance got 25.4 per cent of the votes cast in 1983, not far behind Labour's 27.6 per cent. Why are the Liberals and Social Democrats to be excluded from the political gravy train by a carve-up between the two major parties?

Honesty and fairness would be the best policy. The contentious political levy in the unions should be abolished: the right of companies to make political contributions should be abolished. Many shareholders do not wish the bulk of the political contributions made by their companies to go only to the Conservative Party. A lot would like the Alliance to have a share, and a few would even like Labour to have some.

Instead, the state should make available to each political party the funds it needs to conduct its affairs with reasonable effectiveness. The money should be allocated in accordance with the numbers of votes each party received at the previous general election, except those with, say, less than 5 per cent of the votes. The total bill to the nation would not be more than about £20m a year.

It would be worth paying that to avoid the squalid rows about political levies and shareholders' money. The Conservative Party should welcome the change: it would no longer be tainted with the understandable suspicion that it is too much beholden to big business. The Labour Party would be helped by removing the excessive influence of trade union leaders on its policies. The Alliance would be obvious but democratic. Such new arrangements would not prohibit individuals voluntarily subscribing anything they felt like to the political parties to top up what they received from the state.

Rod Morgan

Just visiting—to what purpose?

Almost a year ago *The Times* published a letter from me (May 9, 1983) protesting about custodial conditions for trial and remand prisoners. I wrote the letter as a member of a prison board of visitors, the lay bodies who, on behalf of the community and the Home Secretary who appoints them, act *inter alia* as public watchdogs over our prisons. I concluded my letter on a despairing, and probably unwise note, with the question "Who could deny that unconvicted prisoners, subject to the presumption of innocence and held in conditions officially described as 'an affront to a civilized society' would be justified in disrupting the shameful system in which they are captive?"

The letter brought an angry response from the Prison Officers' Association. On May 25 *The Times* reported that the POA chairman, Mr Colin Steel, saying that he could not reconcile my letter with his duties as a board member. "How," he asked, "could he (Mr Morgan) effectively dispense justice to an inmate facing him under the Prison Rules?" He called for my dismissal.

I was not dismissed. But most of my board colleagues were displeased with my action and shortly afterwards the POA branch at Pucklechurch Remand Centre in Avon resolved they would not escort or cooperate with me. Last week I decided my position was untenable and resigned.

On one level, this story can be viewed as simply a failure on my part to appreciate the responsibilities and protocol of my office. But no longer can I much sympathize with a watchdog which, with few exceptions, fails to bark.

Since I wrote my letter the position of the untried has not improved. Trial waiting periods get longer, prisoners are not produced in court, and thousands are doubled and trebled up in unsanitary cell conditions. The scandalous use of police cells has been reduced only marginally and at the price of dispersing London prisoners to provincial prisons where their domestic and legal visits are gravely disrupted.

These conditions have been deplored by the Prisons Inspectorate, the Parliamentary Penal Affairs Committee, the Law Society and, when cases have been disrupted, by the judiciary. But I have looked in vain for protests from prison visitors' chairmen, whose public duty it is to monitor these matters.

Not only have there been no press conferences, but few boards have even published an annual report of their work. Almost without exception they continue to keep their

membership secret. The only sound comes from the Association of Members of Boards of Visitors, a small minority of individual members striving to breathe life into an accountability mechanism which, broadly speaking, fails to account. Is there one example of a board of visitors bringing a single abuse to public light? I know of none.

To be fair to boards of visitors, their public silence does not necessarily indicate either complacency or acquiescence. In private they do a little growing. But their agitation, mostly uncoordinated and seldom effective, is invariably directed against the Prison Department rather than its political master.

The reluctance of boards of visitors to "come out" is not, as some would have it, merely a consequence of their generally established membership. It is rather a structural product of their appointment and constitutional duties. They are appointed by, and accountable only to, the Home Secretary; they have minor executive functions and, above all, they are responsible for the adjudication of disciplinary offences committed by prisoners.

Mr Colin Steel speaks of justice in prisons. The rules which Parliament has laid down to determine the quality of life for prisoners are breached both in letter and spirit, as a matter of routine. Boards of visitors are taught to learn to live with that. After all, if the rules were not breached, how could the Prison Department cope? Their specific duty, they are reminded, is to punish the prisoners who break the disciplinary rules. And this, I found, was an intolerably ill-balanced and unjust dilemma.

In future, I shall pursue my interest in prisons policy by other means. However, the tensions which eventually finished me as a board member may soon be dispelled. The Home Secretary has recently appointed a working party, under Mr Peter Prior, to look into boards' adjudicatory and other duties.

The working party should recommend two fundamental changes. First, offences committed in prison which are criminal (as opposed to disciplinary) should be tried by special panels of magistrates or members of the judiciary. Secondly, the tasks of prison inspection and prisoner grievance ventilation should be handed over to a committee of elected and lay persons (not magistrates) appointed by the local authority. These local panels should have the right to attend any trial conducted within a prison. The application of the separation of powers doctrine to prisons is long overdue.

How the Budget could kill British films: David Hewson reports



1982: "Chariots of Fire", a winner all the way. Without City risk capital it might never have been made



1984: Albert Finney and Tom Courtenay in "The Dresser". Could it be the last British film in the running?

Goodbye Oscar, unless they change the last reel

The most glittering names of the American film business assemble in Hollywood on Monday for that most auspicious of occasions, the Oscar awards ceremony. David Puttnam, the British producer who collected the best film award for *Chariots of Fire* two years ago, will not be with them.

Puttnam has no film among this year's runners. Even with the success of his Goldcrest stablemate, Sir Richard Attenborough, with *Goodbye, Mr. Goodbye* last year, his absence now is probably well timed. The Academy electorate may feel inclined to smile favourably on one British film, *The Dresser*, but Puttnam would be hard pressed to exude the kind of optimism about the industry which came so readily two years ago.

The British film business has cried wolf so often that many people have stopped listening. That is a shame because, for once, the crisis is real. For example, the Salkind empire, which has spent £75m on making three *Superman* films and a *Supergirl* film in Britain in the last decade, is planning, reluctantly, to head for foreign shores. It could be joined by the American producers of other British-made blockbusters such as the James Bond and *Star Wars* series. Puttnam himself, though the best-known British film producer in the world, is struggling to find finance for a new series of *First Love*, the joint venture of films made for television in this country and theatrical release abroad which Channel 4 wants to continue.

The Rank Organisation, which has made fat profits in recent years from Pinewood Studios and its film processing laboratories, has taken what is for such a retiring group, the extraordinary step of sending a delegation to the Technology Minister, Kenneth Baker, to warn him of the danger to the British industry.

The immediate reason for this dismay is hidden in the details of the recent Budget. But a more general malaise afflicting the industry stems from a conviction that, for all the

optimistic talk about a promising new future for the leisure business, the Government is more interested in the mechanics of the entertainment industry, such as cable and satellite networks, than the products on which they rely.

Strangely, this latest bout of gloom among cinema people does not stem from any public disaffection with their output. Indeed, a few recent developments on the theatre-owning front, notably Romaine Hart's expanding independent cinema chain in London, have made the theatrical side of things look decidedly less miserable.

What has sent this shock of pessimism sweeping through the film world is the Chancellor's Budget decision to scrap capital allowances. This move might seem peripheral to the film business but in fact has implications for anyone wanting to indulge in the dodgy business of putting pounds at risk in a movie.

Capital allowances were first extended to film stocks in 1979. Without them, several of the key film investment developments of the last few years would never have been made. It was the lure of the tax advantages involved which first attracted the City to the cinema at a time when conventional film backers were starting to feel uncomfortable about the whole idea. Half the money for *Chariots of Fire* came from just such a source, while Goldcrest's formative years rested

on persuading conventional City investors that the allowances made the risk worthwhile.

But even those who have used the allowances to the full have accepted that they would probably disappear in the long run. Philosophically, this was not viewed as a particularly bad thing. After all, a healthy industry would want to rely on backers who wanted to invest in films for the products themselves, not for tax reasons. The question was: when? And the answer which the industry thought it had received from the Government was: around the end of the decade.

One of the most prolonged projects of the Department of Trade and Industry over the past three years has been a review of the film sector, first ordered by Iain Sprouat, who then lost his parliamentary seat, and later taken over by his successor, Kenneth Baker. Delayed by the election and Baker's dogged insistence on seeing as many representatives of the multi-faceted cinema industry as possible, the results are due to be published as a White Paper in the next few weeks.

The trade-off expected in the report was an unstable compromise: capital allowances — which Baker cited to several of those he interviewed as an example of direct government support for films — would be retained for the time being. But the Eady Levy on cinema admissions would be scrapped, leaving the National Film Finance Corporation to find for itself in the commercial market. Attenborough and Puttnam, who have been vociferous in the NFFC's defence,

may have been persuaded to throw a little grudging support behind the compromise agreement, on the grounds that it left the most important prop for the industry intact.

But with capital allowances being cut in the Budget, their position is now rapidly changing. Baker's White Paper is being hastily redrafted, convincing many that he had no idea that the main plank of his support for the industry was about to be chopped from under him.

When the White Paper finally arrives, perhaps a few weeks after a new British Oscar success, Baker, having desperately tried to convince the industry that he wants to help it, stands to find himself condemned as the man who has called "Cut" on the future of a generation of British films.

The absence of capital allowances will probably not hinder producers of the stature of Puttnam or companies of the scope of Goldcrest. A studio technician at Pinewood who has spent the last year making American-produced blockbusters might feel less secure. By tightening the leeway of financial investment, the Budget cuts effectively narrow the chances of recognizably British films being made, since the certain money is more likely to be spent on mass-appeal films identifiably made for the American market. *The Dresser*, for all its acclaim, was the product of an unexpected gap in bookings on a Pinewood stage, a quick deal to put together a small budget, and the kind of gamble which producers have become accustomed to take in recent years.

Scrap the NFFC too, or change its character, and one does away with the cinematic version of the Royal Court: one may not like what it produces in its own house, but the later work of its graduates may often make the initial indulgence worthwhile. If a quirky little film like *The Dresser* wins an Oscar for Britain on Monday night, we would favour it for the cinematic renaissance which began with *Chariots of Fire* may well be coming to a close.

Correction

Rod's 3p approval estimate is 600,000 daily and not as reported on this page yesterday.

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CLASSROOM REALISM

Within the next two months, the Education Secretary, Sir Keith Joseph, has to make up his mind on the future of the two examinations which set most children on their path for their working life - GCE O-levels and CSE. Since he first took on his present office, Sir Keith has shown himself a minister who combines strong personal convictions on what education is about with a willingness to question the received wisdom of the education establishment and a great deal of open-mindedness. It is, indeed, that very open-mindedness that has once again put the question of what are commonly called the 16-plus examinations back on the drawing board after their amalgamation had seemed settled.

Two interlocking but essentially separate questions are at issue. First, should the GCE examination be amalgamated with the CSE, or would it be better simply to harmonize them in some way so as to make the proliferation of boards and syllabuses more rational? Secondly, what should be the method by which children taking such examinations have their papers marked? At present, the O-level examinations taken by children of higher ability are set and marked by a number of university based boards. Each of these examinations is officially of equal status; in practice, there is a pecking order of prestige. There is no real equivalence between a grade awarded by one board and the same grade awarded by another. The reason is that assessment is not by what is called "criterion-referencing", that is, by reference to an absolute standard. Papers are graded largely, though not wholly, by "norm-referencing". That is to say, a candidate's result is determined principally in relation to the performance of other candidates (though there is

an element of absolute standards as well.)

Sir Keith has already indicated his wish to bring between 80 per cent and 90 per cent of pupils up to an average standard (at least equivalent to grade 4 CSE) by tests that measure their attainment by absolute standards or criterion-referencing. This would at least give future employers some idea of the basic skills these children had achieved, particularly in the core subjects of mathematics, English and a basic science. Achieving this, however, will be a gradual process and it will not be easy to eliminate norm-referencing from the marking system entirely. The probability is that it will be easier to switch from norm to criterion-referencing in the CSE-type exam, since it is easier to induce absolute standards into the acquisition of simpler knowledge and skills than into the exams testing the higher sort of academic ability.

The question, however, which is immediately before Sir Keith is whether O-levels and CSE should be amalgamated. The existence of a dual system brings some obvious difficulties. The most genuine is the need to decide in the fourth form of a school whether a particular child is to be trained for O-level (with all the gates that exam potentially opens) or for CSE with its much lower esteem. This can create problems for the late developer, though they should not be insuperable in a sensitive school.

But above all it is the low prestige of the CSE examinations (often set and marked by teachers themselves), and the wish to preserve mixed ability teaching, that have produced the pressure to move to a single system with one set of grades. When Mr Mark Carlisle was Education Secretary, that was the principle that he accepted.

Sir Keith, smelling a rat of bogus egalitarianism, however, climbed back on the fence and called for evidence on the subject. The more the consequences of amalgamation are contemplated, the more unrealistic it appears, given the huge disparity of ability that would have to be catered for in a single system. The egalitarians concede, that the same papers could not be set to all children, and suggest that papers might be divided into two sections, one at a standard which present CSE candidates might attempt, another more related to O-level. But that would merely disguise the old divide. A section which most CSE candidates could attempt would be no test at all to anyone capable of even the lowest O-level grade.

The question is not whether the two examinations should be amalgamated or remain as they are. There is general agreement that the number of boards and courses should be diminished, and that CSE should be cleansed of some of its present eccentricities. It is also agreed that where possible the examinations should be harmonized to avoid duplication and find whatever common ground exists. The question is whether they should be reformed or amalgamated, and it is important that they should remain separate examinations.

The non-academic pupil should leave school with a useful measure of his skills, but the high academic standards associated with O-levels must also be preserved for those who can benefit from them. In his pursuit of standards, Sir Keith should stick to his convictions. It would do boys and girls now taking CSE no good, and potential O-level candidates much harm to create a single system simply to please the egalitarians.

IN SEARCH OF SECOND THOUGHTS

Anything to do with the abolition of the Greater London Council and six metropolitan councils is contentious. The paving Bill, for which Mr Patrick Jenkin will move the second reading on Wednesday is gratuitously contentious in one important respect.

The Bill makes transitional arrangements for the period between the expiry of the present councils when their four years are up in May of next year and April 1986 when the Government expects to have the new structure in place. Among the things it does is cancel next year's elections to these councils and any by-elections that might fall due; require the borough and district councils in the respective areas to nominate members to serve on the about-to-be-abolished councils for their last non-elective year; and take precautions against obstruction or mayhem by laying a duty on councillors and officers of the doomed authorities to furnish all information required of them, and by tying them down a bit more in the brief exercise of their powers to spend and tax.

It is acceptable in the circumstances to cancel the elections. There is precedent for it in earlier local government reforms. There is little point in having a council elected for only one year of life; and in the present context the elections would assume the character of referendums on the single ques-

tion of abolition. That would be illuminating, but in London at least it might be exceedingly embarrassing to the Government and even fatal to the progress of its legislation through Parliament. To expect a government to make express provision for its own embarrassment in a paving Bill would be to expect punishment out of this world.

But with cancellation of the elections the Government goes on to propose that these councils be transformed for the last year of their existence from elected into nominated bodies by a process which can be expected in some cases to bring about a change of political control. This amounts to changing the political complexion of elected bodies by legislative fiat, unless ministers actually relish a reputation for high-handedness.

Both the London Government Act of 1963, which set up the Greater London Council and new London boroughs, and the Local Government Act of 1972, which redrew the map of counties and districts, cancelled elections falling due between royal assent and vesting day for the new authorities eighteen months or so later. But they filled the gap by extending the life of the expiring councils. That is the way to do it.

Ministers appear to have been scared off that precedent by the threats of obstruction and disruption coming from the condemned men. That is a factor to

be taken into account. Labour councillors and unionized employees are not going to go quietly. Their sense of civic responsibility cannot be relied on to govern their resentment. However, their scope for doing serious damage in revenge is limited. If they infringe the law they can be quickly checked by the courts and deprived. To the normal array of ministerial controls the new rate capping powers should be added by then. There might be serious leakage at two points: borrowing and the disposal of assets. It would be prudent to add supervisory powers in those areas to the precautions the Bill is already taking for the period of transition.

That done, the Government could prepare to ride out the inevitable collisions with reasonable confidence. After all, ministers have themselves chosen a rough road. Local government is alive and kicking. If they choose to lay about it without benefit of the moves commonly made for the purpose of establishing a consensus, they must be supposed to be ready to take the kicks.

In the matter of a new constitution for an inner London education authority the Government has shown that it will permit itself second thoughts better than its first. Second thoughts about the details of the paving Bill would do it credit too.

1066 AND WHAT THEN

The back numbers file of the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle, that venerable journal of record, show not the slightest hint of any uproar among the fine arts establishment of the day when the work which is probably the most famous of all this country's achievements in the pictorial arts was threatened with export. No letters to the editor from enraged Academicians, no appeals to raise funds for a matching bid, not a patriotic whisper. This was probably because the exporter appears to have been that episcopal monster, Odo, Bishop of Bayeux and Earl of Kent, who had recently led his cavalry fully-armed into battle at Hastings. And was cousin of William the Conqueror, who held that the best way of dealing with dissent was the shortest.

It has always been disputed whether the Bayeux tapestry should be counted as French or English, but most scholarly opinion today agrees that it is English. The splendid exhibition of "English Romanesque Art 1066-1200" which opened this week at the Hayward Gallery, implicitly accepts the case by including a full-length copy of the tapestry, which is far too frail to travel. It is indeed a master-

piece, with a dazzling narrative verve and command of detail, and a political cartoonist's eye for character. It is also, incidentally, probably the finest and certainly the most famous work of visual art ever executed by female hands: for though art historians to a man agree that its designer must have been male, they concede that the embroidery was probably carried out by women.

But as an object of nationalist or feminist pride, the tapestry is equivocal. It was designed, as the exhibition points out, by someone sympathetic to the Norman cause - a renegade, a Quisling. Its exile has sometimes been mentioned, with confusing effect, in the arguments over the Elgin Marbles. Both works are connected with battles crucial to the way the nations concerned came to think of themselves afterwards. But the event the tapestry recalls (not without a sense of the tragic) is an English defeat, which brought both cultural loss and enrichment. It is no food for easy chauvinism.

There is a school of thought which claims, when quarrels over art exports arise, that we should strive to keep British-made items here, and feel no

grief if alien masterpieces which we have had the pleasure of being host to for a few generations move on to be equally well-cherished elsewhere. It is a proposition which makes more sense than its converse, but it rests on a narrow idea of what constitutes our heritage - which naturally includes things our ancestors treasured and were influenced by, as well as their own handiwork. Whether Manchester's Bellini or Edinburgh's Tintoretto are felt to be part of this corpus is something that only public debate can work out.

In the age that the Norman conquest initiated, such debates might have seemed petty. The catalogue remarks provocatively that in Henry I's day foreign travel was common, study in Paris was a passport to an English civil service job, and "artists and the intelligentsia were in closer touch with Europe than they are today". Be that as it may, exhibitions such as this, which briefly reassemble scattered fragments and provoke many speculations, are a valuable part of our cultural life. It would be a loss if the Arts Council's concern for the provinces ever caused it to give up this kind of thing, which it does so well.

Questions arising from a pardon

From Mr Tom Sargent

Sir, The judgment of the Court of Appeal in *R v Foster* (Law Report, March 31) to the effect that the granting of a pardon does not remove a conviction, raises some questions that need to be answered.

The Home Office memorandum submitted to the Home Affairs Committee when it was considering the effect of a pardon stated, "the effect of a pardon is that a conviction is to be disregarded so that, so far as is possible, the person is relieved of all penalties and other consequences of a conviction".

The Court of Appeal has narrowed this down to "all pains, penalties and punishments" ensuing from the conviction.

What is a pardoned person to make of all this? Must he declare the conviction when he takes out an insurance policy, or applies for a job, or wants to emigrate to the USA? Can it be held against him if he has to appear in court as a defendant or a witness? If a newspaper publicizes his conviction at a later date, can he sue for libel?

The Home Secretary will grant a pardon only if he is fully satisfied that a person is factually innocent and the case is unsuitable for determination by the Court of Appeal. The burden of proof is effectively reversed and the petitioner has to demolish all the evidence that brought about his conviction.

As against this, the quashing of a conviction by the Court of Appeal does not necessarily betoken innocence. It may just have been regarded as unsafe or unsatisfactory, or there may have been an irregularity which the court could not overlook. Furthermore, a pardon carries with it an entitlement to compensation, whereas the quashing of a conviction, except on a reference, does not.

Why, then, is the former regarded as a lesser remedy than the latter? Is it because our system of criminal justice values legal technicalities more highly than the factual truth and consideration for the individual? The term "pardon" is in itself unsatisfactory for the pardoned man or woman who rightly asks, "How can I be pardoned for something I haven't done?"

Exonerate would be a far more appropriate term, and if the Constitution will not allow the use of the Royal Prerogative to remove a conviction, could not the Court of Appeal agree to accept the Home Secretary's assurances of innocence and quash it on his request?

Yours faithfully,
TOM SARGENT,
88 Priory Gardens, N6.

Defence management

From Captain P. R. D. Kimm, RN

Sir, Lord Carver (March 23) stresses that any reorganised Ministry of Defence must remain capable of co-ordinating single-service advice of the very highest grade.

If anything, the importance of this has grown since single-service representation in Parliament was abolished. As a sailor, I miss the days when the First Lord, the Foreign Secretary and the President of the Board of Trade worked together to use the Navy to promote as well as to defend the economy.

That triumvirate surely had better influence on the innumerable public and private sector elements necessary for the exercise of "Admiralty" than exists today. I am sure that there are equivalent concerns for the Army and the Royal Air Force; but, unsurprisingly, the professionals of those Services understand them better and feel for them more strongly than I do.

In Utopia, advice based on such strategic considerations, would come better from a unified defence staff than from three separate single-service staffs. In the real world, the poor chaps will be so busy "managing the defence budget" (i.e. scrabbling for whatever cake their political masters are prepared to throw to them) that they will have less and less opportunity for thinking broadly.

And thus a vicious circle could be created. While the "peace people" continue to pursue their campaign against "militarism", those whose professional responsibility is to maintain the peace would become progressively less influential within the Parliament which finances them: while a Parliament becomes progressively less aware of the potential of the Armed Forces for promoting the prosperity of the realm as well as for guaranteeing its freedoms.

Your obedient servant,
PETER KIMM,
69 New Brighton Road,
Ermsworth,
Hampshire,
March 28.

Action on engineering

From Dr G. B. R. Feilden, FRSE

Sir, Bill Johnston's article in your issue of March 20 and the letters from Professor Stott and Dr Smith (March 24) illustrated the poor recognition of the general public of the contribution made by engineers to our daily lives.

Both letters identified the reason for this, namely that there is a fundamental emotional block in at least 80 per cent of the general public about the status of the engineering profession. Though lip service is paid to the intellectual challenge of engineering, in fact the design of even the most complicated machine is, in the eyes of most people, in a lower category than achievements of doctors, lawyers and some other professions.

Whilst most people know that "chartered accountant" indicates professional status, few people

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Central need for Jobcentres continues

From Mr K. R. Cooper

Sir, You do well to feature the proposed review of Jobcentres as your lead story (April 5), for the future of Jobcentres matters to us all.

When, as Chief Executive of the Employment Service Agency, I introduced the first Jobcentres just over 10 years ago the public employment service was relatively depressed and ineffective. This was the result of successive waves of economy, for its own sake, and of the mistaken belief that this was simply a social welfare service for those who could not help themselves.

We moved the offices, with their new self-service sections, better qualified staff and distinctive house colours, into prime sites on the high streets because Tory Ministers of the day were convinced, following one of the first programme analysis and review exercises, that an effective public employment service had an indispensable part to play in improving the efficiency of the labour market - that is to say, in improving the circulation of information about jobs and job-seekers and providing a job-filling service that the majority of employers and job-seekers find it worthwhile to use.

This is the only effective basis on which good service can be supplied both to the unemployed and to employers wanting to fill jobs and needs help in dealing with redundancies. The statistics available from the opening of the first Jobcentre in Reading in May, 1973, demonstrate the relative effectiveness of the new service in filling jobs: the service's market share has increased significantly and the cost

per placing has been progressively reduced.

In my experience the opening of Jobcentres helped to change the public perception of unemployment as it rose throughout Britain during the 1970s. The provision of brighter and better services, with jobs on display, in the main shopping centres, especially in places like Glasgow, Merseyside, Tyneside, helped to dispel the notion - fostered inevitably by the old, depressed, dole-paying offices in down-town areas - that there were no jobs to be held in areas of higher unemployment.

There are, of course, good management grounds for reviewing from time to time the ways in which services are best organized and delivered to the market place. We want to optimise cost effectiveness in Jobcentres as well as elsewhere in the public service. But we must not be misled by the siren voices of those who at root are simply opposed to public spending and to public intervention in the labour market.

Especially at a time when unemployment is the country's number one social problem we need to maintain Jobcentre services, to help quicken the labour market and to help deal properly with those who are the victims of current economic change. Humanity, as Mrs Thatcher reminded us yesterday in opening the Cabinet War Rooms, gave our country the hope and strength to win the last war.

Yours faithfully,
K. R. COOPER,
4 Rolle Close,
New Barnet,
Hertfordshire,
April 5.

Signing the Secrets Act

From Ms Donna Haber

Sir, From your report of April 2 (Unionists in secret clash) it might be concluded that vital Government secrets are at risk because two TUC representatives on the NEDC, Mr Clive Jenkins and Mr Rodney Bickerstaffe, have refused to sign the Official Secrets Act. Such a conclusion would be absurd.

Section 2 of the Act continues to be an anachronism. It is now widely acknowledged that it ought to be repealed. Attempts to enforce it make the Government look not only petty but as though they really should have something better to do with their time.

But the paper that one is asked to sign with bits of the Act on it is even more absurd and to spend time arguing about it is an even greater waste of time.

When I joined the Government's Genetic Manipulation Advisory Group as a TUC nominee I, too, was asked to sign the Official Secrets Act and I, too, refused. After a bit of consternation among the relevant civil servants someone (besides me) bothered to take legal advice and discovered that laws do not become

invalid because one refuses to sign them. Otherwise the Yorkshire Ripper would presumably have been able to argue that he should not have been found guilty of murder as he had not signed the Act which prohibits it!

Mr Jenkins and Mr Bickerstaffe will continue to be subject to the Official Secrets Act, whether or not they deem themselves by signing such a preposterous load of nonsense. Instead of looking askance at these two gentlemen, wouldn't it be more sensible for *The Times* to look at the issue in a bit more depth and examine such points as:

1. Whether section 2 should continue to exist in a democratic society.
2. What the Government is trying to hide.
3. Whether it would not be a positive step for issues concerning the economy, including the Budget, to be discussed openly, as is done in the USA.
4. What, if anything, of the NEDC's work actually needs to be kept confidential and why.

Yours faithfully,
DONNA HABER,
Divisional Officer,
Association of Scientific, Technical & Managerial Staffs,
79 Camden Road, NW1

Banning heavy lorries

From Mr Michael Harnett

Sir, It surely cannot be in the interests of socialism, or anything much else besides, to implement proposals for even a part-time ban on heavy lorries in London of the sort advocated by Dave Wezel (March 30) when the major outcome will be a further loss of jobs for Londoners.

While not admittedly so bad in its potential effects as the GLC's original plans for total ban further research prepared for the council itself, to supplement the somewhat inadequate findings of the Wood inquiry, shows beyond any reasonable doubt that many jobs will go, a substantial number of them in the hard-pressed construction industry.

If the GLC has, as a result, to revise upwards the unemployment figures so prominently displayed on the facade of County Hall, it will have only itself to blame.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HARNETT,
Building Employers Confederation,
82 New Cavendish Street, W1,
March 30.

Chiswick green

From Mr T. R. Hornsby

Sir, In his letter to you (March 24) Mr John Harris comments on alleged damage to buildings in the care of the Department of the Environment. The examples he cites do indeed beggar belief.

The facts are that at Frogmore House the Wyatt staircase is intact. It has not been badly damaged. There is no subsidence at Hampton Court Palace following the installation of heating paint.

As far as the painting of Chiswick House is concerned (not, incidentally, a scheme for which the Property Services Agency were responsible), the DOE architects specified the previous paint colour.

Body politic

From Professor John Yudkin

Sir, Geoffrey Cannon writes (Monday Page, March 26). "A recent medical trial, costing \$165m, conclusively proved that lowering blood cholesterol lowered the risk of heart attack. Ronald Reagan now refuses sausages and drinks skimmed milk".

The juxtaposition of these two sentences gives the quite erroneous impression that it was a change of diet in the trial that reduced the blood cholesterol and protected the hearts of the participants. It was nothing of the sort. What Cannon omits to say is that these effects were achieved by the drug clofibrate; the diet alone reduced the cholesterol by the minute amount of 2mg/100ml, from 279mg to 277mg.

The truth is that, in spite of writings like those of Geoffrey Cannon, there is still a considerable division of opinion among those who are doing research into the relationship between diet and heart disease.

Yours etc,
JOHN YUDKIN,
16 Holly Walk,
Hamstead, NW3,
April 5.

Room at the top

From the Bishop of Southwark

Sir, Clifford Longley, in "Hard-to-fill houses of the Lord" (Me oversimplifies the problems married clergy and comes dangerously close to making vicious scapegoats for most of the episcopate, "refusals" that are supposed to have occurred.

It is true that some of the castles and other episcopal dwellings are pretty daunting places in which to live, especially by comparison with a basic modern vicarage. But he seems to have forgotten that if you have a wife you may also have children, and some of them may still be at school. In these days they are unlikely to be at a boarding school.

The timing of any move (and not just among the clergy, either) can become an acutely difficult decision for this reason as well as others. It can be right to say "no" in some circumstances without loss of vocation.

"Arm-twisting" by archbishops or Clifford Longley may not be very pastoral or helpful in such circumstances, and I hope it will continue to be as rare as I believe it has been so far.

Yours sincerely,
RONALD SOUTHWARK,
Bishop of Southwark,
38 Tooting Bec Gardens,
Streatham, SW16,
March 31.

Risks in arming summit guards

From Mr David Barnes

Sir, The intent of the Metropolitan Police to arm "marksman" with Heckler and Koch MP5K sub-machine guns (report, April 3) is truly horrific and could be disastrous folly.

The purpose of a sub-machine gun is close quarters fighting and the actuality rather like having a hose pipe for bullets in your possession.

Any weapon is likely to miss its intended target even in the hands of the most experienced marksman. Say "one and" and that is 15 bullets fired with a Heckler and Koch.

Where will all those rounds go if a "terrorist" chooses to make his attack in a street crowded with onlookers?

Yours truly,
DAVID BARNES,
Housestead,
112 Roman Road,
Basingstoke,
Hampshire,
April 4.

From Mr J. Sanders

Sir, I was appalled to read in your article, "Sub-machine guns for police 'horrendous'" (April 3), the views of an "expert" on firearms. This ex-superintendent appears to know very little about sub-machine guns and in particular about the sophisticated MP5K.

Contrary to what he says, the MP5K will not "spray a whole area", drawing upon Germany's experience of terrorism. Heckler and Koch developed this weapon specially for use by anti-terrorist squads.

With the commendable thoroughness which one associates with them, the Metropolitan Police have wisely chosen the most accurate sub-machine gun available; its accuracy has recently been improved by the fitting of a mechanism that restricts the length of a burst of fire.

Used in conjunction with ammunition which does not overpenetrate these MP5K sub-machine guns will not present a threat to the public, only to terrorists who, unlike the police, do not respect human life.

Armed police in Germany, Holland, France and Belgium, to mention a few, do not present a threat to democracy, only a threat to those terrorists who seek to overthrow that selfsame democracy.

Yours faithfully,
J. SANDERS,
45 Beaulieu Close,
Datchet,
Slough,
Berkshire,
April 3.

Poem in the 'TLS'

From Mr David Dent

Sir, The Editor of *The Times Literary Supplement* is surely convincing when he states (April 4) that Dr Scruton "is wrong to think Peter Reading's poem 'Cub', published recently in the *TLS*, is antisemitic".

If a distinguished aesthetician and literary critic believes that the phrase "Old Testament shitters" likely that English teachers and A level students will adopt Mr Tregown's interpretation, a view which is further clouded by the fact that of the two sides to the present conflict it is the Jews alone who are the substance of the Old Testament.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID DENT,
Fountain House,
4 Lower Terrace,
Hamstead, NW3,
April 5.

Nothing to crow about

From Professor K. McCarthy

Sir, Had Judge Garfitt ("A cockerel for five hens, judge says", April 3) remembered his *Nonne Preestes Tale* he would not have taken all day to decide that Mr Clarke's cocks could please but five hens each.

Chauntecler that "gentil colt hadde in his governance seven hennas for to doon all his plesaunce".

Has the mettle gone out of English cocks or had his Lordship forgotten his Chaucer?

Yours faithfully,
K. MCCARTHY,
Duncan Building,
Royal Liverpool Hospital,
Prescot Street,
PO Box 147,
Liverpool,
April 3.

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April: Values: Out on the
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THE TIMES Saturday

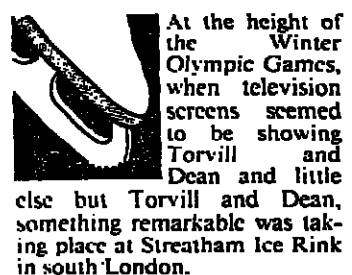
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7-13 APRIL 1984 A WEEKLY GUIDE TO LEISURE, ENTERTAINMENT AND THE ARTS

Is there life after Torvill and Dean? Thousands of starry-eyed
young British skaters are taking to the ice-rinks and
dreaming of glory. As Peter Waymark reports, the facilities
are at last beginning to catch up with the talent

Skating into a new ice age



At the height of the Winter Olympic Games, when television screens seemed to be showing Torvill and Dean and little else but Torvill and Dean, something remarkable was taking place at Streatham Ice Rink in south London.

Egged on by hopeful parents, dozens of small children started turning up at the rink to be enrolled for the "Baby Blades" course for the under-sixes. There were so many of them in the end, around 70, that the rink ran out of skates.

The same sort of thing has been happening at other rinks, as the glamour and success of Britain's ice skating world champions rub off on young talents inspired to think that one day they may be stepping up on to the podium to have gold medals hung round their necks.

There is nothing like Britain beating the world and, no less important, the relaying of that achievement into millions of homes via television screens, to enhance the appeal of ice skating at the popular level.

Torvill and Dean in 1984, Robin Cousins in 1980, John Curry in 1976 - fortunately for the health of the sport, there has been no shortage of golden moments.

On each occasion demand for skating has reached a new peak, fallen back a little as one idol has passed out of the public eye and the next one has still to emerge, then come back afresh. But as the sport booms once more in the wake of the sublime Torvill and Dean, no one should feel complacent.

The Lee Valley Ice Centre in east London, which opened in January, was the first new rink of competition size in this country for more than 10 years. In the whole of England there are still only 24 rinks, one less than in Paris alone. Dick Jeeps, chairman of the Sports Council, sounds this warning:

"The nation has been thrilled by the triumphs of Torvill and Dean. Robin Cousins and John Curry, but these have been achieved in face of an appalling lack of facilities. We cannot expect to maintain our position in world skating, or even meet the demands of those who

simply wish to skate for fun, with such a poor level of provision." A poor level of provision.

The last British world champions actually to train in Britain were Bernard Ford and Diane Towler in the 1960s. Both Curry and Cousins were forced to go to the United States, while Torvill and Dean smoothed their path to perfection by taking advantage of generous German facilities at Oberstdorf in the Bavarian Alps.

British rinks, whether run by private companies or, as in the case of the Lee Valley, by public authorities, have to balance the books and this means trying to get as many people on the ice as possible. Those budding champions who want the ice to themselves have to use the rinks either very early in the morning or very late at night, or go abroad.

Ford and Towler won the world title four years running and retired undefeated. To reach and maintain this standard they were on the ice at Queens club in London at 6am, seven days a week, to get in the required amount of practice and coaching before the start of the public sessions.

Things were little better when Janet Thompson and Warren Maxwell became British ice dance champions in 1976 and runners-up for the world title in the following year.

They were up by 4.30 each morning to be on the ice at Queens by 5.30. They trained for three hours, broke off for breakfast, skated again until noon and then did a fitness run in Hyde Park. In the afternoon they went to their jobs. Janet going up the road from Queens to serve in Whiteley's, the department store. What energy they had left was used up in ballroom dancing and ballet training at the Dance Centre in Covent Garden.

By the time Torvill and Dean succeeded Thompson and Maxwell as British champions, sponsorship had arrived and both were able to give up their jobs - Jayne in an insurance office, Chris as a policeman on the beat - to concentrate on skating.

Then, instead of having to get up in the small hours to use Nottingham Ice Rink in private, or share it with armies of schoolchildren during the day-time, they had the chance to go

to Oberstdorf. There they had the ice virtually to themselves and could skate as long as they liked and at civilized hours.

But for the budding Torvills and Deans of today, it is still a case of fitting in their training sessions on British rinks before the public has arrived or after it has gone. Diane Towler, now senior instructor at Streatham, is on the ice each Saturday from 5am, taking youngsters through the various skills, and twice a week, on average, she has a late night that begins at 11 and can go on until three o'clock in the morning.

Skaters start as young as three or four and already at that age are able to tackle the first of the nine grades laid down by the National Skating Association. But Diane Towler sees a danger in reaching too high a level too young and would rather embark on serious tuition at seven or eight.

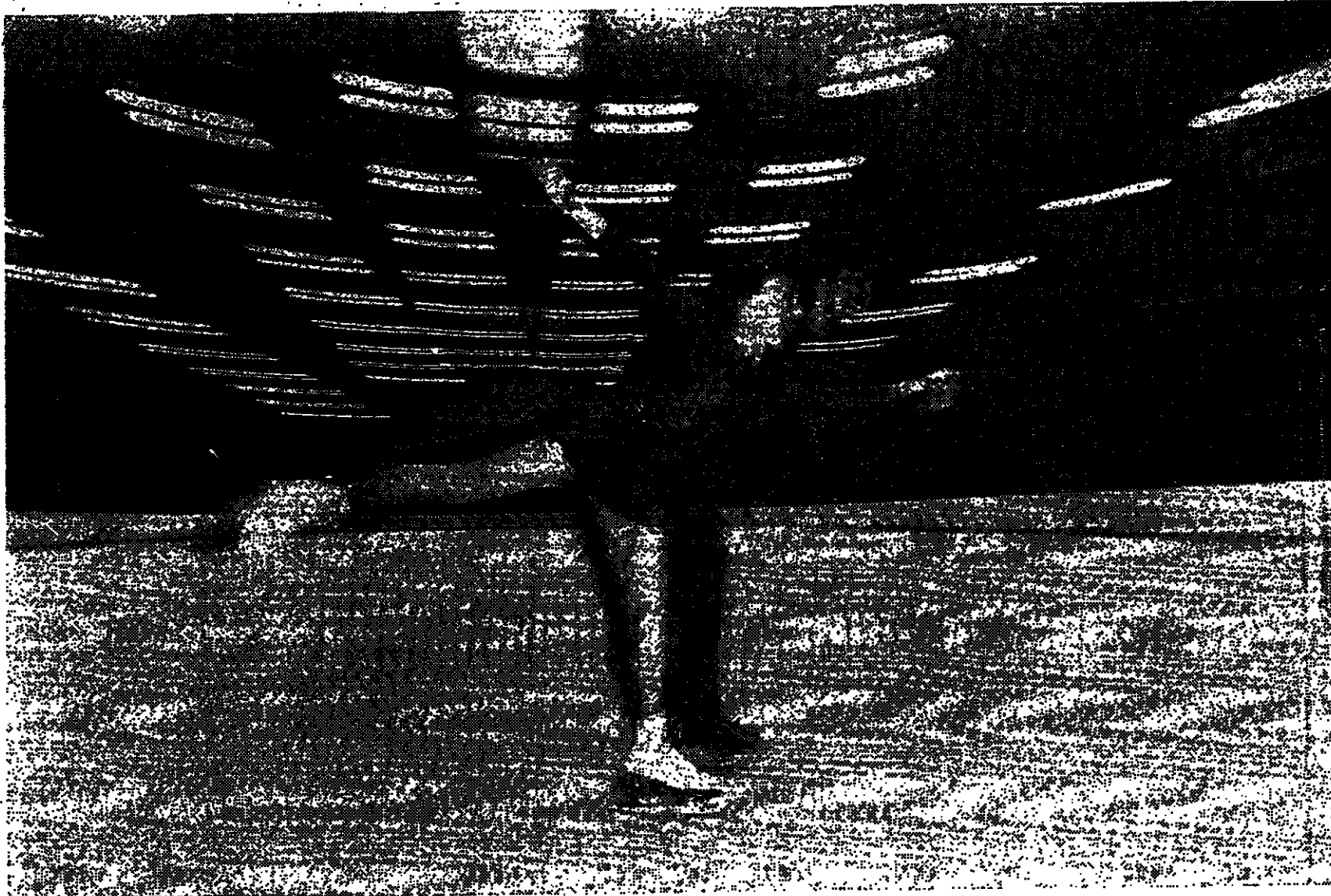
Janet Thompson, another champion turned teacher - she coaches at Queens - agrees. "It is nice for three-year-olds to get on the ice to gain confidence but it is not until they are older that they take things in and understand what you are trying to get them to do."

After the grades, the National Skating Association offers a preliminary test and then a sequence of medal exams - bronze, silver and gold. Gold is British championship standard and only a handful of skaters manage it each year. Among those who did not was Robin Cousins. The highest NSA award, the gold star, has been awarded only once - to Torvill and Dean.

For the vast majority of skaters who will never aspire to national, let alone world competition, getting on the ice can still be a source of satisfaction. Age has little to do with it: both Diane Towler and Janet Thompson number among their students men in their seventies.

Any discussion of ice skating keeps coming back to facilities and the argument tends to be a circular one. Surveys carried out to establish the popularity of the sport suggest that it lags well behind other activities. A poll in the north-west found that only 2 per cent had skated in the previous 12 months, while the figure for swimming was 15 per cent.

The explanation may be not



Ice-cool: Danielle Hunt, aged 10, and 13-year-old Simon Savva set the pace with a graceful demonstration at the Lee Valley Ice Centre in east London

that the demand is absent but that it is frustrated, given only 24 ice rinks and between 800 and 900 indoor swimming pools. Certainly ice skating was near the top of the list of sports people wanted to take up, given the opportunity. If Torvill and Dean had grown up not in Nottingham, which has an ice rink, but in Cornwall, more than a hundred miles from one, they would probably never have become skaters.

And yet ice skating can put up a very strong case. On a strictly commercial basis, there is no reason why it should not pay its way. Rinks can easily attract half a million people a year and make healthy profits. The Lee Valley Ice Centre, not an easy place to reach unless you have a car, is getting 20,000 skaters a week, well above the 10,000-12,000 budgeted for.

Ice skating can also claim to be one of the few sports that appeals as much to women as men. The Sports Council estimates that overall women skaters outnumber men by six to four, whereas in badminton, tennis or squash the balance is more like 70-30 in favour of men.

More remarkable, perhaps, is the appeal of ice skating across the range of income groups. According to the Sports Council again, more than 60 per cent of skaters come from the ranks of skilled and semi-skilled manual workers. That cannot be said of the average squash or badminton club.

Janet Thompson recalls a recent radio discussion from Oxford about the millions being spent on the city's new ice rink and the rather smaller sum offered to the football club. "I just thought of the difference between the two sports. Football is played by men and mainly watched by men. How many grannies do you get at football grounds? And yet look over there."

She points to a portly, obviously over-60-year-old woman happily making her way on to the ice at Queens. Ice skating, finally, is one of the most convenient of sports. It can be enjoyed throughout the year, irrespective of the weather. There is no need to join a club or be part of a team. Beyond the boots and skates themselves, there is no need for special equipment.

Even the cost is not exorbitant. The really keen skater who wants his or her own boots/skates can pay £150 and more, but most people are content to hire or to buy secondhand for a few pounds. A public session on a rink, including hire of skates, can be less than £2.

The Lee Valley Ice Centre is a £2.6m project undertaken by the Lee Valley Park Authority, run by a consortium of local authorities, and the Sports Council. The council put up £1m of the money in an attempt to encourage similar initiatives and the point seems to have been taken, for this year new rinks are due to open at Telford, Oxford and Gillingham, with Swindon following in 1985.

There are also plans, in various stages of maturity, to build new rinks at Brighton, Crawley, Guildford, Greenwich, Chelmsford, Norwich, St Albans, Portsmouth, Slough, Bracknell, Basingstoke, Torquay and Cardiff, to mention only those in the south.

Britain may continue to produce its Currys and Cousins and Torvills and Deans, but perhaps one day they will not have to get up in the small hours to fight for ice time or be forced to train abroad because we cannot offer the facilities to match their talent.

ENGLAND
Altrincham: Ice Rink, Devonshire Road, Altrincham, Cheshire (061 928 1360); Billingham: Forum, Town Centre, Billingham-on-Tees (0642 554449); Birmingham: Silver Blades, Pershore Street, Birmingham 5 (021 622 4325); Blackpool: Ice Dome, South Shore, Blackpool (0253 41707); Bournemouth: Westover Ice Rink, Westover Road, Bournemouth (0202 28111); Bradford: Silver Blades, Little Horton Lane, Bradford 5 (0274 33535); Bristol: Silver Blades, Frogmore Street, Bristol 1 (0272 282148); Durham: Ice Rink, Durham City (0385 84065); Grimsby: Leisure Centre, Cromwell Road, South Humberside (0472 74653); Liverpool: Silver

Blades, Prescott Road, Liverpool 7 (051 263 1990); London: Lee Valley Ice Centre, Lee Bridge Road, Leyton E10 (533 3151); Queens Ice Skating Club, Queensway W2 (229 0172); Richmond: Ice Rink, Clevedon Road, East Twickenham (892 3848); Sobell Centre, Hornsey Road N7 (807 1632); Streatham: Ice Rink, 386 Streatham High Street, SW18 (768 7881); Nottingham: Ice Stadium, Lower Parliament Street, Nottingham (0522 51888); Peterborough: East of England Ice Rink, Mallard Road, Bretton, Peterborough (0733 260222); Sheffield: Silver Blades, Queen's Road, Sheffield 2 (0742 23037); Solihull: Ice Rink, Hobs Moat Road, Solihull, Warwickshire (021 742 4315); Southampton: Top Rank Ice

Rink, Archers Road, Southampton (0703 26043); Sunderland: Crowtree Leisure Centre, Crowtree Road, Sunderland (0763 42511); Sutton-in-Ashfield: Sutton Recreation Centre, High Pavement, Sutton-in-Ashfield, Notts (0623 554554); Whitby Bay: Ice Rink, Hill Heads Road, Whitby Bay (0632 526240).
SCOTLAND
Aberdeen: Donald Ice Rink, Spring Garden, Aberdeen (0224 638550); Aviemore: Highland Tourist Centre, Inverness-shire (0479 810671); Ayr: Ice Rink, 9 Limekiln Road, Ayr (0292 263024); Dundee: Angus Ice Rink, Kingsway West, Dundee (0382 85222); Edinburgh: Murrayfield, Riverdale Crescent,

Edinburgh 12 (031 337 8933); Glasgow: Ice Rink, Crossmythen, Threewood Road, Glasgow S1 (041 423 3083); Hamilton: Lanarkshire Ice Rink (0698 262448); Inverness: Bugth Park (0483 35711); Irvine: Magnus Leisure Centre, Irvine, Ayrshire (0294 78381); Kelso: Border Ice Rink (057 32 2774); Kirkcaldy: Ice Rink, Roselyn Street, Kirkcaldy (0592 52151); Lockerbie: Ice Rink, Glasgow Road, Lockerbie (057 82 2197); Perth: Central Scotland Ice Rink, Dunkeld Road, Perth (0738 24188); Stirling: Williamsfield, Stirling (0786 64153).
WALES
Deeside Leisure Centre, Chester Road East, Queensferry, Chwyd (2044 812311).

Britannia rules the rinks

We can take justifiable pride in kinship with Jayne Torvill and Christopher Dean, world and Olympic ice dance champions extraordinary. But they are only the glittering tip of a substantial iceberg. The influence of Britain worldwide is such that nine of the 19 couples who contested the Olympic championship in Sarajevo last month were either trained by Britons or subject to British consultancy.

All this is a natural concomitant to Britain's place in the history of this branch of the ice skating sport. Apart from a strong Russian influence in the 1970s, this country has largely led the way.

One British professional, Bobby Thompson, was responsible for no fewer than four of those 19 couples at Sarajevo, from four different countries - Britain, Japan, Czechoslovakia and, the particular feather in his cap, the United States. The American champions, Blumberg and Seibert, were, remarkably enough, bequeathed to him by yet another British trainer, Doreen McSalka, now established in Colorado. Mrs McSalka, as Miss Denny, had won two titles at the side of Courtney Jones, recently a strong influence on Torvill and Dean, in 1959 and 1960. Like so many Britons, she left to spread the gospel of ice dance to foreign fields.

Lawrence Denny, the chairman of the ice dance committee of the International Skating Union and therefore its dominating voice, won the world title for five years in succession from 1951, in the company of Jean Westwood, who then took her talents to Canada.

After four years of Czechoslovak success, when Roman and Romanova brought modern music to bear in contrast to the stylized organ offerings of previous years, another British couple, Bernard Ford and Diane Towler, opened up a new field with dazzling footwork to



Tip of the iceberg: Champions, now encouraging new talent, Westwood and Denny (top left), Denny and Jones (top right), Towler and Ford (bottom left), and Torvill and Dean

supplement more formal dance movement. They, too, later turned to teaching, Ford now expanding the potential of the present Canadian champions.

British trainers, indeed, are now in huge demand, particularly in Italy, Germany, Hungary, Canada and the United States. They are mostly former skaters of distinction, but Betty Skallaway, the mentor of Torvill and Dean, stands a little apart. She became a professional show skater at a tender age and is now more of a consultant in general terms, taking an individual couple under her wing from time to time rather than setting up a school. During the 1970s it was she who produced a German couple to wrest the European title from the Sovi-

Union; again, it was she who produced an Hungarian couple to end the Russian sequence of world championship victories in 1980. Torvill and Dean have added to her reputation since then by outclassing all challengers with towering authority and stunning originality of approach.

And yet the immediate outlook for Britain is unpromising. With the retirement of Torvill and Dean, and Blumberg and Seibert, there is a clear opening for Karen Barber and Nicky Slater. But it relies on a large premise - that they can find a free dance programme to follow their hugely successful Chaplin routine in Ottawa.

John Hennessy

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TRAVEL/2

Doone Beale takes a fancy to the soothing French city of Albi

A rosy picture with friendly faces

Albi's central position in south west France is confirmed by Michelin. It is in a far corner of four different maps - numbers 74, 80, 82 and 83 - which extend from the Atlantic to the Mediterranean. They had already been slipping and slithering over my knees during a week's motoring tour of the Lot and the Aveyron: unsullied, pastoral hill country, buttoned with villages and market towns, which lie to the north of it. To the west, Gaillac and its vineyards ripple in a green, piggian arc around two sides of Albi and to the east winds the upper Tarn and its spectacular gorges.

This rose-red city, not quite half as old as time but dating back to the Romans, owed its original importance (and considerable carnage, during the wars of religion) to its position in the mid-Tarn valley and its old market is among the most lovely in Europe. Standing on the Pont Neuf, the first sight of the cathedral and its soaring, slender towers, which look from some angles like a tight bunch of minarets, is startling.

Stand on the belvedere of the Episcopal Palace which, like the cathedral, was originally fortified, and you see a gentler view of the mellow red brick buildings reflected in the broad, bronze waters, with a solitary factory chimney - and that in the far distance - to suggest that this is a busy, prosperous city of the twentieth century.

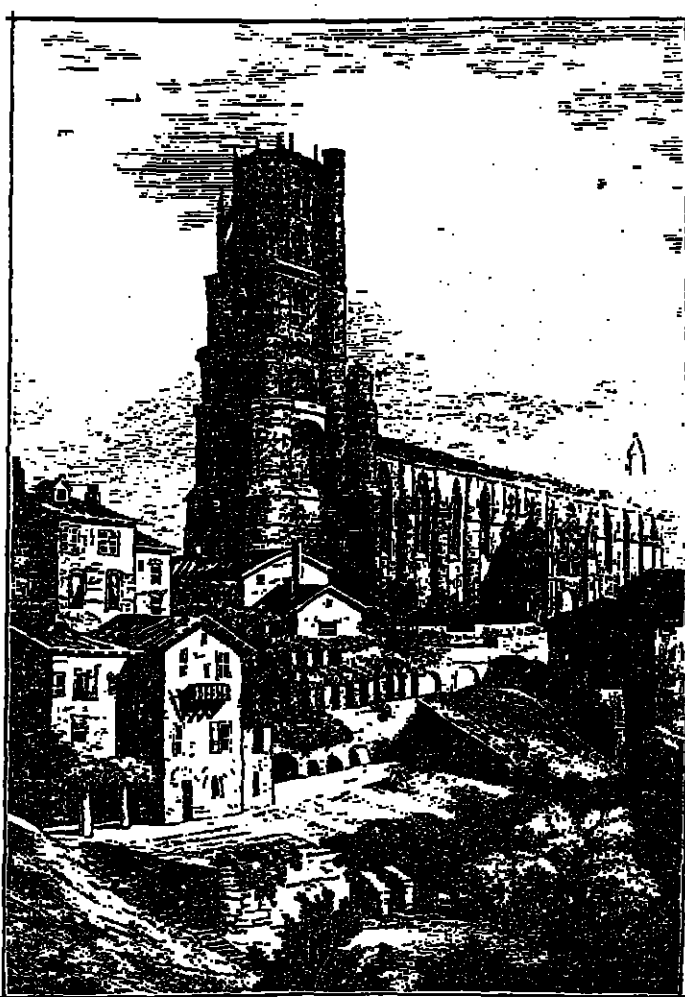
The Episcopal Palace, or the *Berbie*, as it is known, must be the prime target of any visit to Albi, be it for hours or days, for it contains a world-famous collection of Toulouse-Lautrec's paintings, drawings and lithographs, presented to the city by his family in 1922. They are hung in many different, small salons, each of them overlooking the river from a new angle, to double one's pleasure. The familiar figures - Jeanne Avril, and May Belfort - "Chocolat", Yvette Guilbert, La Goulouze and Valentin de Desosses - seem to greet one like old friends and the fancy occurred to me, as I wandered in such a setting, that Lautrec's view of *la ville encaissée* was in many ways akin to Damon Runyan's affectionate observations of New York's demi-monde in the 1920s.

Oscar Wilde and circus sketches

But there are other, lesser known treasures. In a few strokes of genius, he conjures the pallid, pouting Oscar Wilde; and in his circus sketches, catches every mood of a horse's face. His dogs crouch and bark, just as his people laugh and talk. The wit and observation made me laugh aloud, not a commonplace reaction to a gallery of paintings.

I was lucky enough to see the cathedral, whose wonders and eccentricities cannot be conveyed in a few words, on an evening when its interior was illuminated for an informal, well-guided tour: an occasion which is rewarding combined with a brilliant audio-visual, made by Marcel Carne.

The area around the cathedral is webbed with pedestrian streets, leading into little courtyards. All of it is soothing to the eye as well as titillating to the senses. The *ville pharimaire*, its timbered facade leaning over the street, is hung with seventeenth century tapestries depicting the presentation of Shiloh to Solomon. Nearby, an open-fronted shop sells broches stuffed with ham and mushrooms, as well as delectable quiches hot from the ovens at



Startling sight: The soaring towers of the cathedral in Albi

the back. Unable to resist, I bought one and ate it on the spot. Behind glass windows, there are gleaming jars of fruit in eau de vie: black truffles, and all kinds of confits and foie gras. The covered market is also filled with alimentary delights,

and staffed by remarkably genial stallholders. As a result of a chat with one of them, who looked like Charles Boyer, we lunched at the restaurant *Puget*, which I would have passed by without seeing. Inside, it is all claret-

coloured banquettes, potted plants and fringed lamps held aloft by ballerinas. French bourgeois taste at its endearing ghostliest, but French bourgeois cooking of a very high order indeed. On the 100-franc menu, there were superb quenelles de brochet, *feuilleté des ris de veau*, and *lapereau aux figues fraîches*, to mention a few of the possible indulgences.

One of the prettiest drives is upstream along the Tarn valley to Puisseux. Isolated châteaux and hill towns profiled like candelabra cypresses dot the facing hills and in the last stretch, as the road loops over the bare uplands, there were vistas for miles in every direction.

Puisseux is a stony, picturesque little hamlet, twinkling with a stream and burgeoning with moonflowers and geraniums. Our objective was Les Magnolias, a creeper-covered inn with stone-flagged floors, which dates from the fourteenth century. M. Roussel, the hospitable patron, set a table for us outside in the shade of a papillon tree and served us a marvellous lunch culminating in a glass of his own eau de vie des pruneaux.

Albi has two sumptuously good hotels: in town, the *Hôtelierie Saint-Antoine*, converted from a former almshouse, which has belonged to the Rieux family for five generations; and just outside, on the banks of the Tarn, La Reserve (under the same management), a charming, low-slung building which has the added bonus of a large, cool pool, sunk into the lawn. Rates at both hotels are about 300 francs a head with demi-pension.

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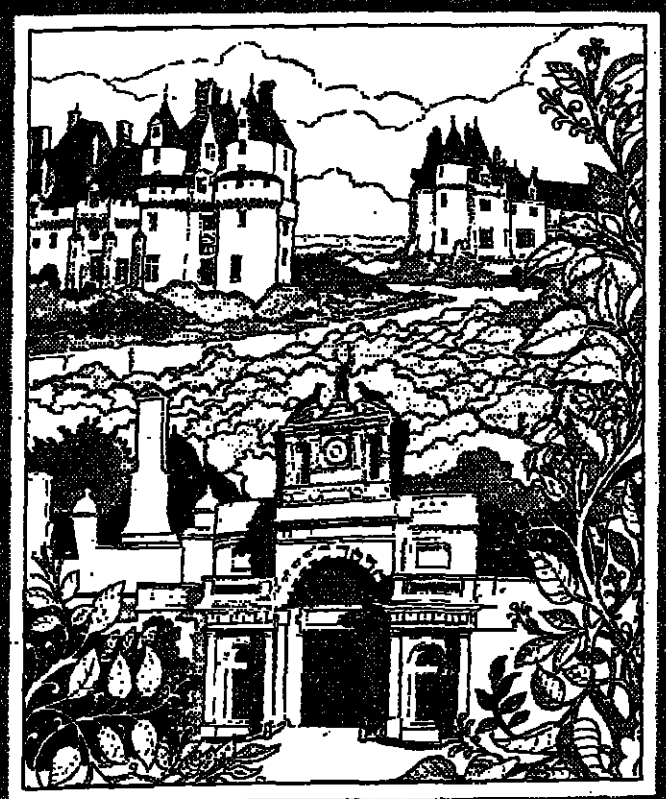
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SWANAGE. Large flat, sea views. Tel: 0763 77700.

NORFOLK. Holiday home, sea views. Tel: 0763 77700.

SAINT LOTHAN. Modern cottage, sea views. Tel: 0763 77700.

YARMOUTH. 1st floor, sea views. Tel: 0763 77700.

CAMP BEAUFORT. American style, sea views. Tel: 0763 77700.

ARGYL. 2nd floor, sea views. Tel: 0763 77700.

COASTGUARD'S COTTAGE. Sea views, sea views. Tel: 0763 77700.

HOLIDAY FARM. Detached, sea views. Tel: 0763 77700.

WEST CORNWALL. Thatched barn, sea views. Tel: 0763 77700.

LEIGH. 2nd floor, sea views. Tel: 0763 77700.

SCOTTISH BORDER. Cottage, garden, sea views. Tel: 0763 77700.

2 PEOPLE. Holiday home, sea views. Tel: 0763 77700.

PERROWESHIRE NATIONAL PK. See our special rates. Tel: 0763 77700.

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TRAVEL/3

Alex McWhirter on bargain flights to Europe

The sleepy Alps wake up with an open jaw



Getting up steam: The ferry station on Galata Bridge, Istanbul

Thanks to a surplus of airline seats Europe remains a buyer's market this summer. But remember that the best buys will be either side of peak travel times - May, June and mid-September to the end of October. Owing to the late Easter most holiday flights are already booked out during April.

We can expect the low-cost scheduled flight specialists to take an even bigger share of the market with their "consolidation" fares. These operators book blocks of seats on the scheduled flights which are then sold to individuals at prices lower than the airlines themselves can charge. The two largest agents in consolidation fares are Slade and Falcon who cover most European destinations between them. But there are at least two dozen smaller operators specializing in individual countries.

Some have gone a step further this year, not only by offering better-value fares but also by throwing in extras like discounted car hire, free tickets and half-price train tickets to the departure airport.

Britain's mushrooming charter industry is set for another busy season thanks to liberal regulations enabling operators to market seat-only fares. There is a large selection of flights to choose from, with most going to the sunspots. France remains an exception because of French government restrictions on charter flights. The main advantage of charter flights, besides the price, is that they operate from the regional airports as well as those in the London area.

Scheduled flights

Besides the standard fares there are no good deals by air to the popular short haul destinations of Amsterdam and Paris. Cheapest excursion (PEX) fares to Amsterdam range from £87 to £104, those to Paris from £71 to £106. Fares are valid with any airline.

Surprisingly some of the better buys this summer will be to Switzerland and Austria. These previously sleepy destinations as regards air fares have sprung into life recently.

You can now fly to Geneva or Zurich for little more than to Paris. For example, London-based City by City Tours sells consolidation fares to Geneva from Gatwick with British Caledonian at prices from £90 return. Flights with Swissair

from Heathrow start at £96 for Geneva, £103 for Zurich and £93 for Basel. With Dan Air prices start at £97 to Zurich and £104 to the Swiss capital of Bern.

You can fly from the provinces at bargain rates, for example Manchester to Geneva or Zurich for £119 return. In fact from Aberdeen in the north to Southampton in the south you can fly to Zurich at prices ranging from £119 to £179.

As in olden times Switzerland is becoming increasingly popular as a transit country for areas of France, Austria, Germany and Italy. Seasoned travellers bound for northern Italy prefer Swiss gateways because of their strike-free record.

Austro Tours of St Albans is selling return fares with Austrian Airlines at prices well below the regular APEX (Advance purchase excursion) fare. Vienna costs £137, Salzburg £104, Klagenfurt £137 and Graz £154. Prices increase by £30 between July and September.

One particular advantage of Austro's fares is the "open jaw" facility enabling you to fly to one Austrian city and return from another.

Whereas scheduled flights to Spain and Greece are more costly than charters in the high season, those to Italy are not, especially if you are heading for one of the cities. The Italian agent CIT sells return fares with Alitalia or BA at little more

than charter prices. Examples: Pisa and Bologna for £130; Milan, Genoa and Turin, £133; Rome, £133; Venice, £132; Naples, £143. Higher fares July to September.

Bearing in mind the distance, fares to Turkey are also remarkable value. London's Golden Horn Travel is selling flights with Turkish Airlines to Istanbul for £170, Izmir £180 and Antalya for £185. For an extra £30 you can fly out to Istanbul and return from Izmir or Antalya.

There are no charters and only a limited selection of scheduled flight deals to the Eastern Bloc countries. Some examples: Falcon is selling Prague for £158, Bucharest from £134 to £204 and Moscow from £180 to £231. Slade offers Dubrovnik for £177, Sofia for £139, and Warsaw for £180.

Charter flights

There is a huge choice and range of prices especially to the sunshine destinations where seats are sold off by the large tour operators. Under the names of Thomson Airfares, Cosmos Cheapies and Air Europe Travel, for example. The price you pay depends on the departure airport, day and time of travel and even when you book. Some operators throw in little extras such as half-price rail travel and cut-price car hire.

When costing the final price remember to allow another £11

or so for airport taxes. Some, but not all, operators include these in the fare.

Flights to destinations in Switzerland, Germany, Austria and parts of Italy operate year round on a quasi-scheduled basis with more stable pricing. To Geneva/Zurich frequent flights sold by Swiss Airfares start at £75 return. GTF's regular flights are the cheapest way to fly to Germany and return fares are Düsseldorf, £89; Frankfurt, £83; Hamburg, Hanover and Stuttgart, all £89; Berlin and Munich, both £99.

Pegasus's Skybus series of regular flights covers Vienna from £99 and all major Italian destinations including some not served by scheduled services. For example, Rimini from £89; Verona from £84; Palermo, Catania, Lamezia and Brindisi, all £119.

The current trend towards late booking has led to empty charter seats being heavily discounted close to departure time as operators scramble to unload seats at any price they can get. These knockdown seats are marketed by charter flight brokers who advertise their wares in the classified pages of the local and national press.

Agents: City by City 01-379 7885; Austro Tours, St Albans 38191; CIT 01-686 5533; Golden Horn 01-434 1982; Falcon 01-221 6298; Slade 01-202 011; Swiss Airfares 01-856 6751; GTF 01-529 2472; Pegasus 01-370 6851.

DRINK

A lively mix to match the mood of spring

April is an excellent time to try a variety of both red and white wines ahead (we hope) stir the appetite for chilled wines. This opportunity to treat the palate while bridging the gap between winter and summer should not be missed.

Some wines match the mood of spring and of the white wine grape varieties, it is the lively green Sauvignon that seems to me the most spring-like in style. One of the most vibrant wines made from this variety that I have encountered recently is Harvey's excellent '82 Sauvignon de St Bris, which comes from one of those old VDQS "pocket-handkerchief" sized regions not far from Chablis.

This Sauvignon is a classic example of the grape variety, with a lovely fresh, green bouquet and strong, pungent, grassy-green taste and finish. It is worth every penny of its £3.34. (John Harvey & Sons, 27 Pall Mall, London SW1, and 12 Denmark Street, Bristol.)

Another Sauvignon that makes an excellent April wine is Robert Cordeir's '82 Reuilly. Sauvignon wines from this central part of the Loire tend to get rather overshadowed by the more popular red wines of Sancerre and Pouilly-Fumé.

Meursault on offer - an '80 Château de Meursault, Domaine du Château de Meursault (£4.45), which comes under the umbrella of that enterprising Nuits-St-Georges merchant, André Boisset. This Meursault has a rich golden colour plus a buttery-oaky bouquet and taste, while its high alcohol content and high extract make it almost Californian in style.

The last week's article on Chianti, it was good to taste the latest vintage of Count Ugo Contini Bonacossi's Tenuta di Capezzana. The wine comes from Carmignano which, although technically part of the Chianti district, has its own DOC with stricter quality regulations than those of Chianti and which allow a proportion of Cabernet Sauvignon to be included.

The count's '81 Tenuta has about 10 per cent of the Cabernet Sauvignon grape in its mix, and it shows. So it is not surprising to learn that he considers the Cabernet Sauvignon grape "for us absolutely the best" and to discover that he was a prime mover in getting Carmignano recognized as a separate DOC independent of Chianti.

His '81 Tenuta has a medium-purple colour, a fine, fruity bouquet and a full, deep

robust taste. It is still rather young and sturdy but should soon come round, and priced at £3.39 (Peter Dominic) it is an inexpensive way of tasting a new-wave Tuscan red.

Another warming red wine for a cool April day is the Vina Lanciano Gran Reserva '73, a mature Rioja from one of the most modern Rioja bodegas, Bodegas Lan. This Gran Reserva is in fact the flagship of the Lan range and lives up to its reputation with its mature, pale garnet colour and fine, strong oaky-smoky nose and taste, coupled with a fine, almost tarry finish. (John Harvey & Sons, £4.26.)

Finally, as it is spring, splash out on a very fine claret from an excellent year. Peter Sichel's '78 Château d'Angludet (John Harvey & Sons, £7.29). This Margaux property is easily of classed growth standard now that Peter Sichel has restored it. Incidentally, '81 Sichel reckons that it was only from 1978 onwards, after 18 years at d'Angludet, that the property reached maturity. This wine, with its deep purple colour, rich, grassy smell and soft, smoky, cigarbox taste, is as complex and elegant as any claret connoisseur could want.

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rights to Europe
wake up
jaw

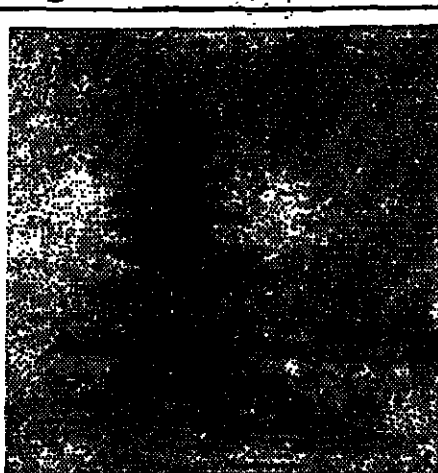
VALUES: Down on how to live with a plethora of stylish new and antique designs



One of six cats, £3.80, by Florian Studios for Ceramic Tile Design



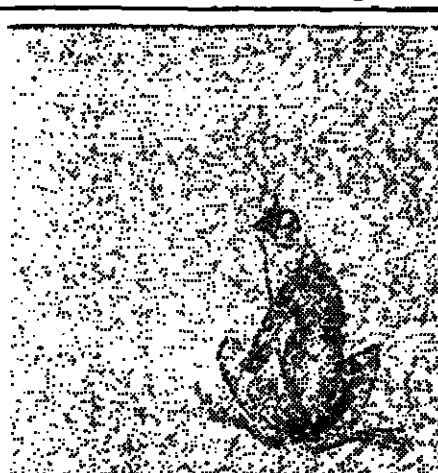
One of 14 Edward Lear limericks, £3.80 (Ceramic Tile Design)



Moonscape by Kenneth Clark, £7.30 (Ceramic Tile Design)



Picture tile by Christina Sheppard, £5.20 (Ceramic Tile Design)



Hand-painted frog by Jennifer Scott, £6.50 (Ceramic Tile Design)



One of four Provencal figures, £3, exclusive to Ceramic Tile Design

Every night and day on the tiles

It has taken the British a long time to tile with style. Our Victorian and Art Nouveau tiles were as elaborate and colourful as anything the Italians and Spanish produced. Yet for years modern manufacturers worked on the principle that we could have anything we liked as long as it was white, or offered us dull avocado that did not quite match the bath. Now the choice is so wide it has become confusing.

Tiles, like fabric, look quite different en masse than on a couple of square feet of wall board in the average showroom, and to give customers a chance to see tiles in settings they can relate to their own houses, Paul Portelli of World's End Tiles has opened a huge new showroom in Battersea.

He has fitted a hangar-sized warehouse at the British Rail Yard, Silverthorne Road, London SW8, with most sets of all kinds and colours, from a holiday-poster blue swimming pool scene and a cool grey marble temple to a Victorian bathroom with a bottle-green tiled dado. There are elegantly restrained Delft designs, mass-produced at reasonable prices (£15.53 a square yard) and murals individually designed to order. You can even have tiles designed with your own crest or logo.

Most versatile of all the modern designs

are World's End Tiles' own range of British-made tiles which they screen-print themselves in a studio behind the showroom. They have a stock red range in stripes, squares, grids, dots and borders and a multi-range in primary or pastel colours in tulips, dots, diamonds and stripes.

All these will mix and match in whatever quantity you choose, so you can be as flamboyant or as restrained as you wish. Using a simple coloured border as a picture-rail effect, or as a panel with plain white tiles and a white bath, is a much newer look than fancy-coloured suites. It is also much cheaper because you are not using so many patterned tiles. Prices are from £17.25 a square yard.

New, too, is a range of almost indestructible floor tiles by Montreal, called Granito. Instead of having a glass, which eventually wears off, these are polished with a carborundum stone, and are so resistant to scratches, stains and frost that they are being used at airports and similar places. They come in attractively muted granite effects and would be suitable for domestic use indoors or out. Granito tiles cost from £17.25 a square yard, plus the cost of polishing.

Anyone restoring an old house may be interested in some reproduction tiles made from original nineteenth and early twentieth-century moulds found at the Maws tile works at Ironbridge, Shropshire. They had simply been left behind locked doors, stacked on their racks and still bearing stock cards dated 1922.

They now belong to Jackfield Works Ironbridge, the most complete Victorian tile works in the country, which in January

set up a commercial company to reproduce some of the original designs and to restore period tiling.

Among the original designs they are reproducing are two panels of tiles to fit old, cast-iron fireplaces. One panel is of foxgloves and flowers and the other of birds. They can be produced in colours to suit the customer's decor. Simple colours cost from £17.25 to £23 per panel of four tiles; special colours cost more. Telephone 0952 882030 for more details.

Jackfield's reproduction tiles are on display at World's End Tiles (open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday and until noon on Saturday). Many of the modern stock designs sold by World's End Tiles are also available outside London; ask for a brochure and list of stockists (01-720 8358).

Fulham is another fruitful hunting ground for tile fanciers, and one of the most enterprising specialists is Ceramic Tile Design at 56 Dawes Road, London SW10 (01-381 1455), where Christopher Crewe-Read sets out to "get anything for anybody—and in a hurry".

His light, bright corner showroom has an impressive selection. You will find everything from the "interior decorator" style, with elegantly simple lines and borders, to "artist-potter", hand-painted tiles and traditional French and Italian designs.

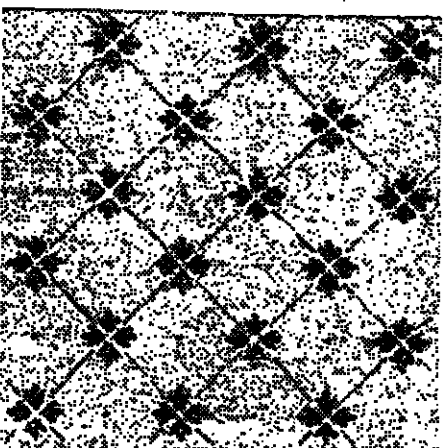
Here again restorers are in luck, for there is a range of excellent reproduction period tiles of such good quality that few people would be able to tell them from the originals. For those looking for something exclusive there is a striking range of

Turkish tiles imported by Melissa Ferguson, who shares the premises.

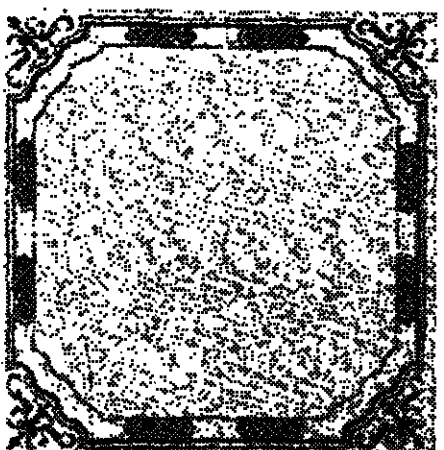
All the designs come from mosques and can be used decoratively in groups or made into traditional panels. They are available from stock in a screen print at £25.50 a square yard, or 71p per tile; hand-painted tiles in the same designs, but with a much greater depth of colour, are available to order. These are £3.65 each, and a panel 8ft by 3ft would cost from £300. The shop is open until 7pm on Tuesdays.

In the mass-produced market, H. & R. Johnson, who produce Cristal tiles, now coordinate their colours with sanitaryware manufacturers and also produce a range of plain tiles to match the new Dulux paints—white with a faint tinge of colour. They are 32p each to order from John Lewis stores.

Other useful addresses: Rye Tiles, 12 Cornaught Street, London W2 (01-723 7278) and The Old Brewery, West Ward, Rye, Sussex, (0797 223038), have a special range to match Colefax and Fowler fabrics. Townsends, 1 Church Street, London NW8 (01-724 3746) have one of the largest stocks of period tiles in the country. Domus, 266 Brompton Road, London SW3 (01-589 9457) have one of the largest ranges of plain Italian tiles offering about 80 colours.



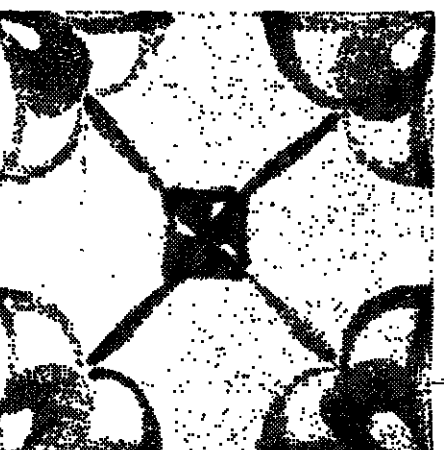
Delft Flanders, £15.53sq yd (World's End Tiles)



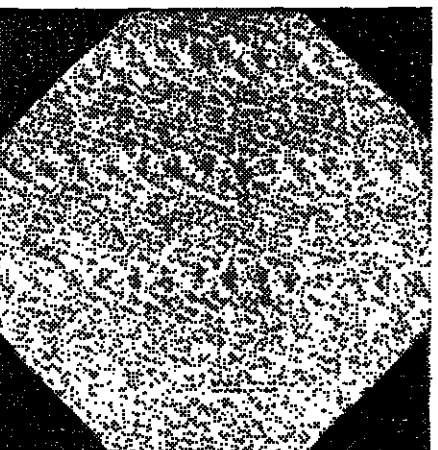
Delft Antwerp Plain, £15.53sq yd (World's End Tiles)



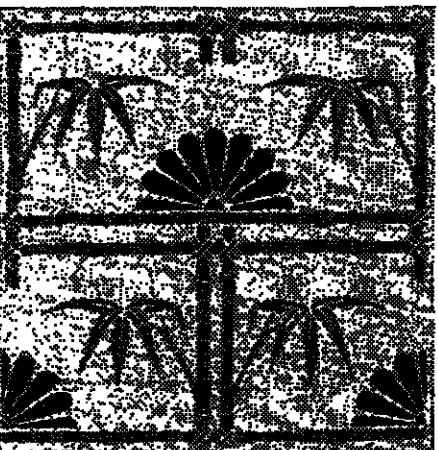
Border (tile below), £4.60, 7 1/4 in x 3 3/4 in



Trellis in Blue by Alan Caiger Smith, £2.50 (Ceramic Tile Design)



Conti Rosso 7 1/4 in square, £28.75 sq yd (World's End Tiles)



Palm, 7 1/4 in square, £31.63sq yd (World's End Tiles)



Victorian reproduction, Cherry Blossom, £2.30 (Ceramic Tile Design)



Victorian white grape reproduction, £5.18 (World's End Tiles)



Primrose tile from a nineteenth-century mould, £4 (Jackfield Tiles)

Drawings by Jill Field



Putting all your eggs in one basket is not such a bad idea for Easter. A service called Baskets with Love has several seasonal specialities which it can deliver in central London or send by post anywhere in the country. Prices for baskets start at £2.50, but the most delicious ones are considerably more. The Mad Hatter's Picnic includes hot cross-buns, cheese, fruit, jam, a bottle of wine and a corkcreeper for £20, and a Chic Chick includes a bottle of champagne, chocolate truffle eggs and a fluffy chicken for £26 (no postal service on this one). Postage is £3.50 extra, hand delivery from £2.50 according to distance. For other occasions they can make up baskets to your instructions from £10—this would include a mini-birthday cake, some chocolates and silk flowers—and there is a brochure of their standard, year-round baskets. For more details contact Baskets with Love, 38 Lower Richmond Road, London SW14 (01-578 7201). If you are visiting friends or relations at Easter and want a spectacular present to take to your hosts, Marks & Spencer have

some superb oriental hybrid lilies. The one on my desk is 18in tall, has five fin speckled pink blooms and three more buds still to open; £3.99 at most branches from today. Easter novelties for children are often made of very poor quality chocolate. The one we have tasted and liked best in this office is the 7in milk chocolate bunny (illustrated right), £1.05, by Thorntons, who also do the named egg shown. The latter comes boxed with a selection of Continental chocolates at £5.49. They have branches at 52 Marylebone High Street, London W1 and the Market, Covent Garden, London WC2 and throughout the country. We also liked the Marks & Spencer pack of five milk chocolate bunnies, made in Israel, for 60p, although the rabbit image is only on the foil wrapping; the actual chocolate is more mummy-shaped. Boots have a chocolate rabbit for diabetics, £2.15p. At Liberty the favourites were the small novelties (right), 10p each.

and a bunny gift pack containing a 6in rabbit and six small shapes, £1.85, all by Friedel of West Germany. To make any gift appropriate to the season Liberty also have the 3 1/4in painted cardboard egg shown (70p), with larger versions at £1.10 and £1.50. For collectors, the Halsey Days twelfth Biston enamelled egg is particularly pretty this year, decorated with panels of British birds, beautifully drawn and coloured (left). It costs £24.50 from Halsey Days, 14 Brook Street, London W1 (01-629 8811). Crumlies have a range of enamelled eggs, too. My favourites are the small ones which include a charming design of butterflies and cowslips, £16.50, from Those Goodies, South Audley Street, London W1. For those who prefer antiques, a selection of antique eggs is available at Gray's Mews, 1-7 Davies Mews, London W1, have some very covetable Easter presents. Stockspring, stand J23, have a Chamberlaine Worcester egg-cup holder and three cups in blue and gold, circa 1810 (£25).

Anthony Gray, stand H26, has a small egg-shaped scent bottle, half Bristol blue glass and half silver, 2 1/4in long (£25). On stand H25 you will find two porcelain eggs: the Gerni Art Deco one, blue with a black and white border, 4in high, costs £75; the English one, gold with a blue goose, circa 1880, 4in high, is £95. All these are illustrated, left. Even if you are not in the market for a one-off antique, Gray's is good browsing ground, and you might care to look at the hand-painted wooden eggs at £13 each on Brian and Lynn Holmes' stand B04. They are modern but exquisitely painted, and there are plenty of designs to choose from. The owl, right, is one. Finally, if you want to see an artist actually at work, Timothy James will be in Liberty's One-off department, in the basement, hand-painting blown eggs at £5.50 each, from noon to 3pm on Thurs, Fri and Apr 14. One of his designs, on a metallic blue ground, is illustrated right. A selection of colours will be available during the demonstrations, when initials may also be incorporated if time permits.



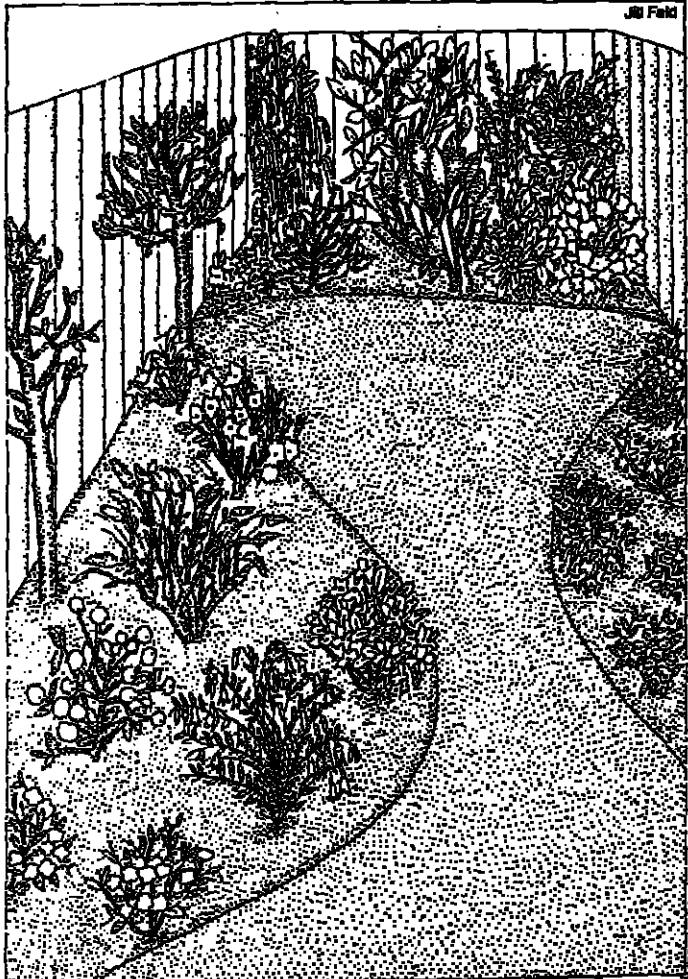
B.D.

SHOPFRONT at Easter

IN THE GARDEN

Look forward to the rich rewards of patience

THE TIMES GARDEN PROJECT/ Month 8



The Times garden project began in August last year in an underdeveloped garden in Fulham, west London. Now that the slow winter season is nearly over, there are jobs to be done which will help to make the most of the approaching growing season.

The dormant season is coming to an end; sap is rising and it will not be long before there are signs of spring. The Times garden has been going through a period when nothing much seems to have been happening, and although this is not strictly true, it is a time when dependency can creep in. Plants put in recently have not grown; those which were

pruned look even smaller and doubts about how the garden will look when completed are uppermost in the mind of the gardener. Try not to let this slow period affect your enthusiasm.

To try to lift the spirits we show an artist's impression of what the garden will look like in a few summer's time, when it will not be fully grown but at least will look clothed.

Before plants burst into leaf there are a number of jobs to be done. The most important is to get the grass right. Because the grass is thin there are more weeds than usual and these must be dealt with as soon as possible by going over the grass areas with a tined springbok rake. Press down quite firmly on the tines so they get into the soil and tear out the weed. There is quite a lot of chickweed which looks untidy

and is a nuisance, but the raking will help to control it. Other weeds are in evidence and these will be disturbed and any runners broken by the tines.

The lawn will not be a pleasant sight immediately after raking, but if you remove the grass and weed litter it will soon recover. Allow a few days for the weeds and grass to stand up again, then add a general grass fertilizer. Do not give the normal spring dosage but apply about half the required amount. This will encourage the grass and the weeds still in the lawn to grow more vigorously. Once strong growth is evident apply a selective weedkiller such as PBI Lawn Weedkiller at the recommended dosage. It may be necessary to repeat applications of weedkiller over the growing season at about six-weekly intervals. Up to three applications should be enough.

Allow about seven days for the weeds to take in the killer, then oversow the lawn with the same mixture grass seed. Sow at the normal rate, i.e. about 1oz per square yard. This will probably cover the bare patches, and as grass growth is vigorous in the spring there should be complete cover before the end of May.

There are a few spaces between the shrubs which could take plants which will add to the garden until the main plants are fully grown. *Deutzia Montebigi*, about 5ft tall, or *Deutzia discolor* Rosalind, about 4ft tall, would add autumn colour. In the space filled with daffodils I would add *Abelia grandiflora*, moving a block of bulbs to get the shrub in. This little known evergreen with its attractive pink flowers will make a welcome addition.

Unfortunately, the grass has

not taken close to the border of the raised bed at the bottom of the garden, which calls for low planting to add colour to this area. *Hypericum calycinum*, with yellow flowers, *Coryopteris x landonensis*, with mauve/blue flowers, and *Fuchsia Adm Cornelissen*, which has red and white flowers, would grow informally and clothe this bed to add interest in the summer. I suggest six plants of each to make a splash.

The fence near the house needs something to cover it quickly, and *Eccremocarpus scaber* is a very fast growing plant which will cover this fence in a season. The site should be sheltered enough to allow the plant to remain from year to year. It has orange-red tubular flowers through the summer.

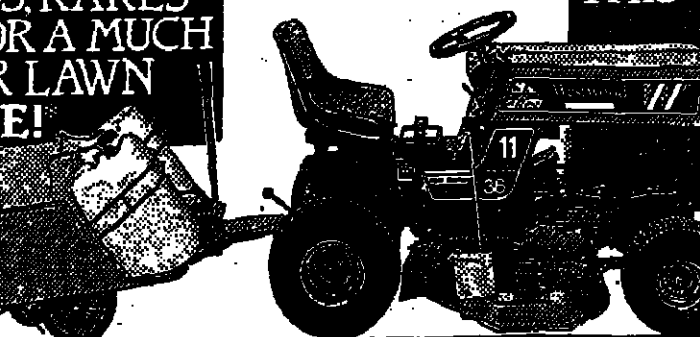
Ashley Stephenson

The owner writes:

With all the markers for the beds removed, the shape of the garden is beginning to appear at last. The beds are being covered with a mulch. Forest Bark, which will be expensive but should lessen the need for feeding. Despite all the preparatory work late last summer and in the early autumn to root out signs of the original garden, daffodils and hyscynth have started to reappear. Additional shrubs, the mulch and other odd items have taken the budget over £400, and the plants we add to the beds will have to be chosen carefully. By the time the 12 months are over we will have come very close to our limit of £500. But we have saved some money by hunting out plants through a network of London and Home Counties nurseries.

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Westwood GARDEN TRACTORS

REVIEW Rock records of the month

Creativity comes alive in the extra dimension

In the recording career of a pop musician, the appearance of a live album generally signals the drying up, temporarily or permanently, of the creative juices. Recycling and exploitation become the names of the game. Only very seldom does the vinyl enliven the extra dimension of live performance: James Brown at the Apollo and Bob Marley at the Lyceum are two of the handful of memorable examples, although the best live rock album of all, the performance of Bob Dylan and the Hawks at the Royal Albert Hall in 1966, has never been made legitimately available.

Many live albums are doctored between recording and release. Principally, singers like to be given the chance, afforded by modern multi-track technology, to clean up their contributions. No such trickery - which often simply destroys immediacy - has been involved in the preparation of Dire Straits' first live recording, a two-disc set which documents a single concert given at the Odeon, Hammersmith.

In a word, *Alchemy* is stunning: a marvellous summary of a career of a great rock band. The extra dimension is captured in such a degree that, after these performances of "Sultans of Swing", "Expresso Love", "Tunnel of Love" and "Romeo and Juliet", even the distinguished original studio versions sound flat.

Mark Knopfler, the group's singer, composer and guitarist, makes brilliant use of the space a two-hour concert allows. "Once Upon a Time in the West", which opens the set, is typical in the way it finds its own pace, surging into climaxes and ebbing back with mesmerising control. "Sultans" becomes an epic setting for Knopfler's entrancingly eloquent guitar, while "Romeo and Juliet" has the lovely touch of a string-

Dire Straits: *Alchemy* (Vertigo VERT 11)
Van Morrison: *Live at the Grand Opera House, Belfast* (Mercury MERL 38)
Bobby Womack: *The Post II* (Beverly Glen BG 10003)
Major Lance: *Monkey Time* (Edsel ED 124)

synthesizer quietly sketching in the hook-line of "Stop! In the Name of Love" behind the guitar improvisation. Alan Clark's piano and Terry Williams' drums provide the warm, resilient matrix for Knopfler's flights.

Perhaps the album's great value lies in the way it demonstrates the band's singular ability to retain the warmth they radiated at the beginning, when they played in pubs and tiny clubs, while playing in the sort of arenas which normally dehumanise such music. This is due, I think, almost wholly to Knopfler's gift for instrumental melody, which remains the most highly developed in rock music.

One of the Knopfler's early inspirations was Van Morrison, who has carried himself towards middle age with a dignity unmatched by any other rock performer. Perhaps this is because he never had to worry about keeping his looks: even in his younger days he was no matinee idol. His new album, drawn from two concerts in the spring of 1983, is his second live release, and the contrast with *It's Too Late To Stop Now*, recorded and released exactly a decade earlier, is fascinating.

Belfast is Morrison's home town, and the source of some of his material, but there is no particular sense of a homecoming. That is perhaps because Morrison's music no longer encourages a noisy response; it is, by and large, calm, reflective and relaxed, the accent firmly



Sultan of swing: Mark Knopfler, working powerful alchemy at the Odeon, Hammersmith

on the spiritual rather than the sensual.

"Northern Music", "Dweller on the Threshold", "Beautiful Vision" and "She Gives Me Religion" are all indicative of his current concerns: the only reference to the distant past comes in his fine band's brief sketch of "Into the Mystic" as part of the overture, although "Full Force Gale" is a lively gospel-style reworking of "Wild Night" from 1971. "Vanlose Staircase" the most compellingly mysterious song he has written since "Madame George", chills the marrow. Send me your picture... send me your pillow... send me your Bible. John Allair's warbling Hammond organ adds a particularly attractive colouration to the steady pace.

Brief mentions, lastly of Bobby Womack's warm, confident follow-up to the hugely successful first volume of *The Poet*, this time with cameo performances from Patti LaBelle and George Benson; and of a thoughtful repackaging of Major Lance's "new-wave rhythm and blues" hits and near-misses of the early 1960, most of them written by Curtis Mayfield including the lovely "Delilah".

Richard Williams



No matinee idol: Van Morrison, recorded live at Belfast

Battle Muzak from the shock troops and muted drums

Bubbling away in the cauldron of popular chart noise, the brains behind the Zang Tuum Tumb label definitely have the last laugh. An offshoot of Island Records, ZTT pride themselves on confusing public and media alike while satiating their appetite for the abnormal. They have already pioneered two of the year's most memorable slogans in "Relax", the single by Frankie Goes To Hollywood which topped the charts for five weeks despite, or perhaps because of, a BBC ban, and "Dr Mabuse", the devilishly eerie hit by the German group Propaganda.

ZTT's in-house team started with *Into Battle With The Art Of Noise*, the electronic weaponry that producer Trevor Horn used as a blueprint for later adventures. Now available again in cassette form, *Art Of Noise* is highly enjoyable Muzak. The single "Beatrix" is better taken in its remixed dancefloor version, but other segments, such as "Moments in Love" or the minimalist Andrews Sisters refrain of "The Army Now", are fine for living-room consumption.

As might be expected from ZTT, the record is a clever exercise in well-packaged indulgence, refreshing and disposable. They have dedicated it to Buddy Rich.

Mr Rich would concur with Carmel McCourt's assertion that *The Drum Is Everything*, though this extravagant claim is not justified on hearing her album. Carmel and her accompanists, the double bassist Jimmy Paris and the drummer Gerry Darby, take some chances with their debut, tackling testifying gospel, finger-popping light jazz and adventurous cover versions of "Willow Weep for Me", "Tracks of my Tears" and "Stormy Weather".

When Carmel mixes the pigments correctly, adding Brian Pendleton's horns and the colouring of a Hammond organ, the songs work well. Her powerful vocal style is sometimes let down by a nasal blues shout that conjures up horrific

Into Battle With The Art Of Noise (ZTT CTIS 100)
Carmel: *The Drum Is Everything* (London SH 8555)
The Style Council: *Café Bleu* (Polydor TSCLP)
Scott Walker: *Climate Of Hunter* (Virgin V2303)
REM: *Reckoning* (RCA 7045)



Seamless voice: Scott Walker returns to the fold

visions of a contemporary Janis Joplin but she has come a long way from singing a cappella versions of Ann Peebles songs.

Paul Weller's move away from angry young man with The Jam to a musician of more flexible aspirations with his new group, The Style Council, results in another mixed bag. The sound of *Café Bleu* veers from the jazz of Joe Pass and Dizzy Gillespie to attempts at George Clinton disco. This strange brew includes a dire rock attack on America called "A Gospel", and more tasteful instrumentals such as "Dropping bombs on the White House".

I have no objections to Weller's refusal to remain typecast but *Café Bleu* suffers from its desperate attempt at musical integrity. Mick Talbot, the group's excellent keyboard player, gives the album an undeniable melodic appeal, but whenever Weller lifts the lid on his obsessive class conscious-

ness the effect is too diluted to pack any punch.

Scott Walker's long-awaited return to the vinyl fold, *Climate Of Hunter*, has been released with a lot of noise being made on the crooner's behalf. By now everyone must know that Walker's easy baritone and Jacques Brel mannerisms have launched a thousand impersonators, a motley crew that numbers Julian Cope, David Bowie, Marc Almond and Billy Mackenzie.

Fans of the four volumes of *Scott* will find nothing to disappoint them here. The seamless voice, cryptic (some would say pretentious) words and well-groomed backing, including cameos from Evan Parker and Mark Knopfler, suggest a wealth of sublimated passions which are never allowed to disturb the sleek dynamic of the whole.

The record begins in a metaphorical, primal jungle on "Rawhide" and then travels a straight line that never reaches a climax, fading away on a gentle version of Tennessee Williams's "Blanket Roll Blues", an unlikely choice last heard from the lips of Marlon Brando in *The Fugitive Kind*.

Walker, like Brando's updated Orpheus figure, is a spellbinding musician with a penchant for disappearing now and again. *Climate Of Hunter* is a welcome reminder of his unique talents.

REM, the pop band from Georgia who made their debut with the sublime *Murmur* album last year, raise the volume a little on *Reckoning*, a selection that is more akin to their crazy live shows. REM continue to remind me of a latterday Dillard and Clark, particularly on "Seven Chinese Brothers" or the plaintive "Letter Never Sent". *Reckoning* proves that they have survived even their nominations as *Rolling Stone* magazine's brightest new hope. Refined noise like theirs is an art form all of its own.

Max Bell

PREVIEW Theatre

Black, white and shades of grey

The opening scene of *Saturday Night at the Palace* always draws a laugh during its long and successful run in South Africa and got the play off to a good start. When the play had a trial week in Limerick in Eire before coming to the Old Vic in London, the scene was watched in silence. "It was the weirdest experience", recalled Bill Flynn, a member of the three-man cast.

It was, indeed, an experience that made them think again about the play and how to adapt for European audiences the local jokes and colloquialisms that had received instant recognition at the Market Theatre in Johannesburg and elsewhere. The result is that the cast are "excited but nervous", about how it will be received when it opens for a six-week run at the Old Vic on Wednesday.

Saturday Night at the Palace written by Paul Slabolepszy, who is also one of the cast, and directed by Bobby Heaney, is a production by the Market Theatre Company, resident at Johannesburg's Market Theatre. In the past year the company has brought to London two highly successful productions: *Wozu Albert!* and *Unter Thurold and the Boys*, which won the Standard drama award for the best play in 1983.

"It is good for us to have to think again about the play, having been with it for so long", Paul Slabolepszy said. During the week in Limerick they were able to try out changes in

emphasis and small alterations in the text to make the action clearer. Some of the colloquial language has gone - the word "stealing" has been changed to "stealing" for example - but they decided against any large-scale changes.

Saturday Night at the Palace is set in Rocco's Burger Palace, a deserted drive-in roadhouse.



Raw deal: Fats Dibeco as the tormented roadhouse waiter

Two white motorcyclists push their way in at closing time and force the black waiter to serve them. The mood begins as humorous and clowning, changing to taunting as the play explores the attitudes of the three and through them the society that has created their grudges and frustrations.

Slabolepszy, son of a Polish airman and Lancastrian mother, who emigrated to South Africa when he was three, deliberately tempers with humour the serious theme of the social and political implications of the South African policy of apartheid. "We are trying hard to entertain, not to make an overt political statement. But I wanted to get the message across, and to open people's eyes to the continuing situation, and by including humour I hope to appeal to a large cross-section of the population."

His treatment disconcerted some of the South African audiences who had come expecting a comedy. "Some people told me they had been conund, and others said the situation was no longer like that. But it is, and people are trying to ignore it."

One of South Africa's leading playwrights, Slabolepszy won a best play award in South Africa for *Saturday Night at the Palace*. It is his third play, after *Renovations* in 1978 and *The Deformation of Mies Kevemoer* in 1980, and represents an adventurous choice for the new Ed Mirvish management in its first season at the Old Vic.

Christopher Warman

Saturday Night at the Palace opens at the Old Vic (928 7816) on Wed at 7.30pm. Until May 19, Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 4pm and 7.45pm; matinees Wed at 2.30pm



Musical moments: Ann Morrison (left) and Sian Phillips in *Palace*, which opens at the Phoenix Theatre (836 8611) on Thursday

Critics' choice

GLENGARRY GLEN ROSS
Comedies (928 2252)
Today at 2.30pm, 7.30pm. In repertory David Mamet's menacing account of the shark-eat-sprat world of US real-estate salesmen has a resonance that spreads wide.

HAT FEVES
Queen's (924 1166)
Until Apr 14, Mon-Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 5pm and 8.15pm; matinee Wed at 3pm
Noel Coward's 1920s comedy about a theatrical family and their mixed bag of perceptive house guests remains hilarious after any number of revivals, and Penelope Keith takes to the leading lady's part as though to the bad manners born.

LOOT
Ambassadors (836 1171)
Until May 5, Mon-Fri at 8pm, Sat at 5.30pm and 8.30pm; matinees Tues at 3pm
Joe Orton's macabre farce, juggling corpses and bank hauls, still proves hilarious and outrageous in Jonathan Lynn's revival, with Gemma Craven as the bent Irish nurse and Leonard Rossiter as the sadistic inspector Truscott.

MASTER CLASS
Wyndham's (936 3028)
Final performances today at 5pm and 8.30pm
Stalin's 1948 pressure session with composers Prokofiev and Shostakovich gives David Pownall the setting for an alarming yet sometimes hilariously funny drama, full of food for thought on art and politics and the relation between them. Timothy Wynn's fearsome Stalin is a complex study on the grand scale.

NOISES OFF
Savoy (936 8888)
Mon-Fri at 7.45pm, Sat at 5pm and

Out of Town

BRISTOL: Old Vic (0272 24388)
The Happiest Days of Your Life by John Dighton. Opens Wed at 7.15pm. Until May 5, Mon-Wed at 7.15pm (not Apr 30), Thurs-Sat at 7.45pm; matinees Apr 19 and 26 at 3pm, Sat at 4pm
Classic 1940s school farce, with Carol Gillies, Bill Wallis, Graham Pountney, Peter Copley, Susan Brown. Directed by Anthony Cornish.

CAMBRIDGE: Arts (0223 352000)
Blithe Spirit by Noel Coward. Opens Mon at 8pm, until Apr 14, Mon-Sat at 8pm; matinee Sat at 4.30pm
Elspeth March, Adrienne Cori, James Villiers, Elisabeth Scott in Coward's comedy in which a dead wife returns to trouble her husband's second marriage. Hubert Gregg directs.

GLASGOW: Citizens' (041 429 8177/0022)
Mother Courage and Her Children by Bertolt Brecht. Opens Wed at 7.30pm. Until Apr 21, Mon-Sat at 7.30pm. Free public dress rehearsal Tues at 7.30pm
New production, directed by Ian Woodbridge, concludes the TAG Theatre Company season at the Citizens'.

HAYES: Middlesex: Back Theatre (581 8371)
Another Country by Julian Mitchell. Opens Mon at 8pm. Until Apr 14, Mon-Fri at 8pm, Sat at 5pm and 8pm; matinee Wed at 2.30pm
Two of the original West End cast, directed by Kim Grant in this sharp award-winning play about pre-war public-school life and its influence on the greater world.

LEEDS: Grand (0532 468351/440971)
The Glendastine Marriage by David Garrick and George Solman. Opens Mon at

Critics' choice

A CIRCLE: PORTRAITS AND SELF-PORTRAITS
Marborough Graphics, 39 Old Bond Street, London W1 (924 5181). Until May 12, Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm, Sat 10am-12.30pm
Avidor Arkha, Frank Auerbach, Lucian Freud and R. B. Kitaj are foreign figurative artists who are much friends and have made London an important centre for their work. This exhibition of prints and drawings from the past decade finds common ground in each artist's interest in the human face and his use of immediate family or close friends as sitters.

BARNETT FREEDMAN
Gillian Jaeger Gallery, 42 Inverness Street, London NW1 (267 4835). Until May 18, Tues-Sat 10.30am-6.30pm
Through Freedman's book illustrations remain well-known, most of his other work - paintings, drawings, lithographs - has been quite new. Since his death in 1958, now they have been taken out from storage and are being shown again, revealing an artist of rare integrity and consistency. Although each member of the family will sit for a day or more, the result is relaxed and informal.

ENGLISH ROMANESQUE ART
1066-1200
Hayward Gallery, South Bank, London SE1 (928 3144). Until July 8, Mon-Wed 10am-6pm, Thurs-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun noon-6pm
Artistic activity in Norman England produced such great illuminated manuscripts as the Winchester Bible; the richly coloured stained glass of Canterbury Cathedral; the gilt cloister and the delicate and finely carved ivory of Bayeux.

WATFORD: Palace (0922 25671)
Cider with Rosie by Laurie Lee, adapted by Nick Drake. Until Apr 28, Mon-Thurs at 7.45pm, Fri and Sat at 8pm (not Apr 20); matinees Sat at 2pm and Wed at 1.45pm (schools); Apr 21, 28 at 3pm
Heather Canning, Roger Heathcote, Helena Little in a pleasing account of growing up in rural domesticity.

Critics' choice

an audio-visual programme about the buildings for which they were made.

SILVER ON SHOW
Burghley House, Stamford, Lincolnshire (0780 52451). Until Oct 7, Mon-Sat 11am-5pm, Sun and Good Friday 2-5pm
A selection of silver objects from the Elizabethan to the Edwardian periods goes on display in the State Rooms and Great Hall of Burghley House, Stamford, Lincolnshire. Most of the pieces have not been seen in public for many years and include a spectacular Queen Anne wine cistern by Philip Roiles (c1710) which is five feet long.

WIDE AWAKE IN A DREAM
Porter Gallery, 16a Grafton Street, London W1 (629 3506). Until Apr 19, Mon-Fri 10am-5.45pm, Sat 11am-2pm
A collection of 25 bold and imaginative paintings and drawings by art teacher David Cheepan. They include "Thomas in the City", a beautiful image, measuring about 5in by 5in and crafted with immense delicacy, of a cat superimposed on St Paul's Cathedral, and "Receiving Instruction", a striking self-portrait. Cheepan says of his work: "I paint as a child would paint if he or she could paint as I paint."

A WEAVER'S LIFE: ETHEL MAIRET
Crafts Council Gallery, 12 Waterloo Place, Lower Regent Street, London SW1 (930 4811). Until May 27, Tues-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-5pm
One of the major figures in the British arts and crafts movement during the first half of this century, Ethel Mairet was influential in many areas connected with textiles and weaving, both through her writings and the example of her own work. She was also a famous collector and an important teacher.

Photography

VICTORIAN ART WORLD IN PHOTOGRAPHS
National Portrait Gallery, 2 St Martin's Place, London WC2 (01-930 1552). Until June 24, Mon-Fri 10am-5pm; Sat 10am-6pm; Sun 2-6pm
Photographic studios proliferated during the Victorian period and any famous person was likely to be photographed for family and friends or to satisfy the public's curiosity. Those in the art world were no exception. This exhibition concentrates on photographs of Victorian painters, their families, studios and models. A large section on the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood includes some rare photographs of Holman Hunt from his own family collection.

IMAGES OF INDIA
National Museum of Photography, Prince's View, Bradford, West Yorkshire (0274 727488). Until Apr 28, Tues-Sat noon-6pm, Sun 2.30-6pm. Eye For India until May 28
Images of India presents nineteenth-century photographs by explorers such as Samuel Bourne, while Eye for India takes a more dispassionate contemporary view with work from Ian Barry, Patrick Ward, Raghu Rai and others.

EARLY DAYS OF MANCHESTER FOOTBALL
Manchester Polytechnic, Cavendish House, Cavendish Street, Manchester (061 228 6171). Until Apr 30, Mon-Thurs 10am-6pm, Fri 10am-5pm
Photos and studio photographs plus material drawn from the Manchester Sports Archive, document the growth of football in Manchester from 1880 to 1939.

Theatre: Irving Wardle and Anthony Masters: Photography: Michael Young: Galleries: John Russell Taylor

PREVIEW Galleries

Delicate art with a bold humanity

The vivid and delicate art of the Scottish painter Harry More Gordon gets its first major London showing next week when 40 of his recent works go on display at the Francis Kyle Gallery off Regent Street.

All are watercolours, the medium in which he specializes and to which he brings a fine sensibility. He is, first of all, a striking colourist: his tones are always fresh, never garish, and he has a particular liking for reds and blues.

His subjects are broadly two, flowers and portraits. For his portraits he goes not so much for individuals as families, painted in their home surroundings with an affectionate eye for the detail that reveals character.

More Gordon paints straight on to paper, with no preparatory pencil work, a boldness of approach that helps to give his pictures their look of spontaneity. Although each member of the family will sit for a day or more, the result is relaxed and informal.

To complement and enrich the human content, More Gordon picks out characteristic objects from the family home - a sofa, perhaps, or a carpet (which is usually an excuse for a glorious riot of colour) or a pot plant. He also makes effective use of white space



Upstairs, downstairs: 'Patricia on the Staircase' (1983)

Now in his mid fifties, More Gordon became a full-time artist comparatively late. He studied at the College of Art in Edinburgh (where he lives) and worked for some years as a teacher and designer. His first one-man show was in 1971.

The exhibition opens at the Francis Kyle Gallery, 9 Maddox Street, London W1 (499 6870) on Tues and runs until May 10. The gallery is open Mon-Fri, 10am-6pm, and Sat, 11am-5pm. Admission free.

Peter Waymark

THE WEEK AHEAD

Today

SOUTH AFRICAN GRAND PRIZE: The second round of the 1984 motor-racing world championship is being contested over the 76 laps of the Kyalami circuit. No British driver has won the event since Jackie Stewart 11 years ago, but with Derek Warwick, Nigel Mansell, Martin Brundle and Jonathan Palmer all going well in Rio recently, the British challenge could be stronger than for some time. The race starts at 1.30pm and is being covered live in Grandstand, BBC1.

GI BRIDES: A documentary by Lavinia Warner about the fate of some of the 70,000 British women who married American servicemen stationed here during the Second World War and later settled with their husbands in the United States. The film concentrates on four very different case histories and also covers a GI Bride convention in New Jersey. Channel 4, 9.35-10.50pm.

PHOENIX: A new play by David Storey is given its world premiere by a London amateur theatre. The setting is a theatre in northern England and the subject is the director's personal and artistic problems. Neville Crutten, Ann Ewan, Lyn Langridge, Ruth Lester, Questlove Theatre, Matlock Lane, Ealing, London W5 (01-567 5184). Opens today at 7.45pm. Until Apr 14, Sun at 7.45pm, Tues-Sat at 7.45pm.

OUR GRACIE: World premiere of a play with music about the Lancashire-born entertainer Gracie Fields. Written by Jack Rosenzweig, directed by Steve Addison, Oldham Coliseum (061 824 2829). Previews today at 2.30pm, opens today at 7.30pm. Until May 5, Tues-Sat at 7.30pm.

Tomorrow

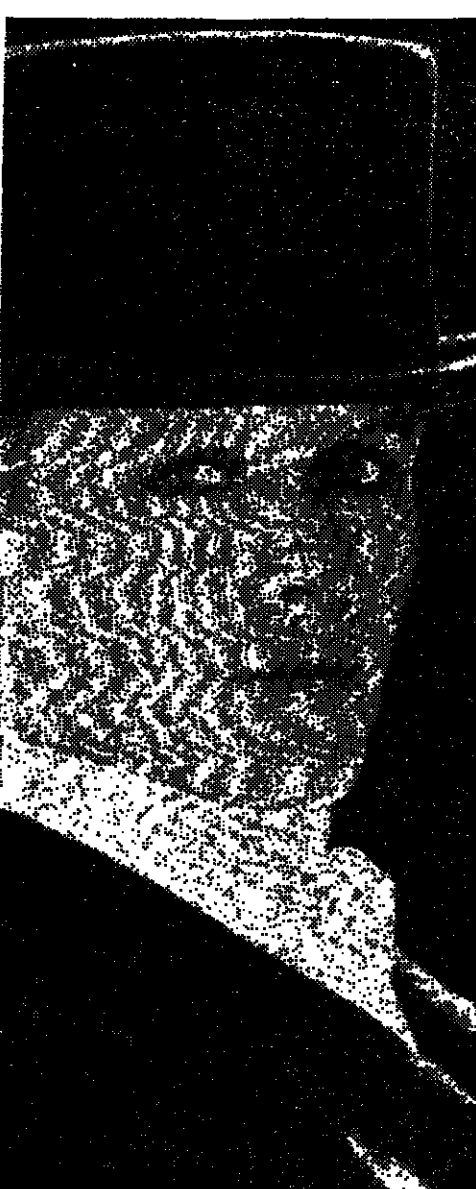
CURLEW IN AUTUMN: A new six-part radio thriller by Eddie Boyd, one of the leading exponents of the genre. It is set in Galloway, on the south-west coast of Scotland, where a struggling lawyer (played by David Ashton) finds himself caught up in a murderous conspiracy which apparently involves the security forces and a local protest group. Radio 4, 7.02-7.30pm.

JERUSALEM: A "personal history" of the Holy City presented by Michael Frayn. He visited Jerusalem last Easter, and the programme covers the Good Friday processions on the Via Dolorosa, the Easter rites in the Holy Sepulchre and the traditional seder meal of the Passover. Frayn sees the history of Jerusalem as a history of disputes, not only between armies but also between sects and faiths. BBC1, 10.05-11.05pm.

VAUGHAN WILLIAMS EVOKED: Ken Russell, who made his name with television portraits of composers such as Elgar and Debussy, returns to the form with a film about another giant of English music, Ralph Vaughan Williams. Russell uses extracts from the nine Vaughan Williams symphonies to evoke the composer and there is a contribution from Ursula Vaughan Williams, his widow. The South Bank Show, all ITV regions, 10.30-11.35pm.

Monday

HAMILT: Making its first British tour with a mobile version of its home theatre, Manchester's Royal Exchange company is visiting Lancashire, Yorkshire, Cumbria, Cheshire, Merseyside, Durham, Northumberland, Kent, Sussex, Buckinghamshire and finally the roof of the Barbican in London, between now and June. Robert Lindsay has the title role in a production seen in Manchester in 1983, with Alison Fiske as Gertrude, Philip Madoc as Claudius, Geraldine Alexander as Ophelia; directed by Stephen Murray, Lewisham High School, Newton Road, London, near Warrington (0942 603 419). Opens today at 7pm. Until Apr 14, Mon, Wed, Thurs at 7pm.



Showing their mettle: Virginia Holgate (left) and Lucinda Green, favourites for Badminton, and Anthony Caro, the sculptor, whose work can be seen at the Serpentine Gallery (see Thursday)

Fri and Sat at 7.30pm; matinee Tues at 1pm.

SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE PALACE: Market Theatre Company of Johannesburg presents a new play by Paul Slabolepszy. See page 16.

Tuesday

TRIBAL CARVINGS: The prices of lesser items and these remain cheap. Estimates in today's sale range from £10 to £1,200, with most lots less than £100. A Guro antelope mask, a Dan wood spoon, a Yoruba helmet mask, a Philippine island shell necklace, a Malatya wood paddle and an Asmat wood shield are among the offerings. Christie's, 85 Old Brompton Road, London SW7 (01-581 2231) at 10.30am and 2pm.

CHINESE TREASURES: The catalogue of Chinese treasures for sale today and tomorrow is about the size of a telephone directory. The star turn is a fourteenth-century underglaze, copper, red vase - a very difficult colour - valued at £150,000 to £250,000. A sixteenth-century bronze figure of an elephant is another rarity, and there is an unusual group of Korean pottery. Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1 (01-838 9060) at 10.30am and 2.30pm today and tomorrow.

LONDON BOOK FAIR: The annual British book bazaar throws open its doors to the public for the first time. Publishers at more than 500 stalls have the latest information on forthcoming books, many authors are available for discussion and books can be ordered. Barbican Exhibition Halls A and B, Silk Street, London EC2 (01-539 4141). Today, tomorrow and Thurs 9-6.30pm. Admission £1.

STEPPING OUT: World premiere of a Richard Harris play, set in a fitness class disturbed by a clash of personalities when they begin a tap-dancing course. Julia McKenzie directs a cast including Barbara Ferris, Diane Langton, Barbara Young, Ben Aris, Gabriella Lloyd, Peggy Phango. Thorncliffe Theatre, Leatherhead, Surrey (0372 377677). Opens today at 7.30pm. Until Apr 26, Mon, Tues, Thurs at 7.30pm, Wed and Fri at 8pm, Sat at 7.30pm; matinees tomorrow at 2.30pm, Sat at 4pm.

THE COMPLETE JOY OF SEX: Patrick Barlow and Jim Broadbent, also known as The National Theatre of Brent, present their latest epic comedy, with the help of Andrea Durant and accompanist Ian Anderson. Lyric Theatre, Hammer Smith, London W6 (01-744 2311). Previews today and tomorrow at 7.45pm, opens Thurs at 7pm. Until May 5, Mon-Sat at 7.45pm (not Apr 23), matinees Thurs at 2.30pm, Sat at 4pm.

RAINY DAY WOMEN: The first television play by David Pirie, the film critic, is set in September 1940. It is about a shell-shocked survivor from Dunkirk sent to investigate civilian morale in a lonely village in the Fens, at a time when Britain seems in imminent danger of an invasion. He finds the place thick with rumour and suspicion and doubts whether the villagers can rise to the challenge. Charles Dance, Suzanne Berish and Lindsay Duncan star. BBC1, 9.25-10.50pm.

Wednesday

ACQUISITION IN FOCUS: Degas's portrait *Helene Rouart* in *her Father's Study*, acquired in 1981, is one of the most important of the National Gallery's recent additions to its collection of nineteenth-century art. This

exhibition, which marks the 150th anniversary of Degas's birth, shows the artist's developing image of this particular sister, the daughter of one of his closest friends, from childhood to maturity. It also illustrates the artistic background of the painting, including the original of the Millet drawing depicted in it. National Gallery, Trafalgar Square, London WC2 (01-838 5321). Until June 10, Mon-Sat 10am-6pm, Sun 2-6pm.

CONTEMPORARY SCOTTISH PRINTMAKERS: Clearly the special spirit of the "Scottish Colourists" is still alive and well north of the Border. The only trouble is that it too seldom travels south. But the Mercury Gallery has been doing a lot to remedy the situation with shows of a number of individual Scottish painters, and now this mixed show of etchings, lithographs and screenprints reflecting the enormous revival of interest in printmaking in Scotland in the last few years. A considerable variety of styles is in evidence, but a vibrant sense of colour links even the most disparate. Mercury Gallery, 28 Cork Street, London W1 (01-734 7800). Until May 12, Mon-Fri 10am-5.30pm.

MEASURE FOR MEASURE: The Royal Shakespeare Company's Barbican season opens with Daniel Massey as the Duke and Juliet Stevenson as Isabella in Adrian Noble's production, as seen at Stratford. Peggy Mount is Mistress Overdone, David Schofield is Angelo. Barbican (01-628 8795/838 8891). Previews today, tomorrow, Fri at 7.30pm. Opens Apr 17 at 7pm. In repertory.

VOLPONE: First Royal Shakespeare Company production of the new season in the Pit is directed by Bill Alexander, with Richard Griffiths in the title role of Ben Jonson's bitterly funny play. Miles Anderson is Mosca. Pit (01-628 8795/838 8891). Previews today, tomorrow, Fri at 7.30pm. In repertory.

PASSION PLAY: The award-winning "adult comedy" by Peter Nichols returns to London in a production from the Haymarket Leicester. The cast includes Judy Parfitt, Zena Walker, Barry Foster, Leslie Phillips, Heather Wright, Patricia Heneghan; directed by Mike Ockrent. Wyndhams (01-838 3028). Previews from today at 8pm. Mon-Fri at 8pm, Sat at 5pm and 8.30pm, opens Apr 18 at 7pm; matinees (from Apr 25) Wed at 3pm.

THE BOY FRIEND: Revival of Sandy Wilson's 1920s pastiche musical in a pre-West End run. Glynn Johns, Peter Bayliss, Derek Waring, Paddy O'Neill, Christine McKenna, Linda Mae Brewer and Rosemary Ashe, directed by the author. Churchill Theatre, Bromley, Kent (01-480 8677/8689). Opens today at 7.45pm. Until May 5, Mon-Fri at 7.45pm, Sat at 8pm; matinees Apr 26, May 3 at 2.30pm, Apr 28, May 5 at 4.30pm.

EUROPEAN FOOTBALL: The semi-final first legs of the three European competitions are being played today, and with the draw keeping the British teams apart there is a possibility of three all-British finals. In the European Cup Liverpool take on Dynamo Bucharest and Dundee United play AS Roma. Manchester United and Nottingham Forest in the UEFA Cup. There will be highlights of one match on *Midweek Sports Special*, ITV, 10.30pm-midnight.

Thursday

ANTHONY CARO: In what might be called a partial retrospective, this tribute to one of Britain's leading middle-generation sculptors skips the development section and the welded-steel abstractions which first brought Caro before the public in the 1960s. It begins instead 15 years ago

with works of his maturity. What we see, consequently, is a formed style gradually evolving as the artist tries out different materials or works on different scales. No revelations, but clear evidence of why Caro is where he is today. Serpentine Gallery, Kensington Gardens, London W2 (402 6075). Until May 26, Mon-Fri 10am-6pm, Sat-Sun 10am-7pm.

BADMINTON HORSE TRIALS: The four-day annual event, established in 1940, begins with two days of dressage and about 80 competitors. On Fri there is a day-long endurance test and on Sat the Queen arrives to watch the jumping, parade and displays and to present the overall winner with the Whitbread Trophy. Favourites are Virginia Holgate probably riding Night Cap, Richard Meade on Andeguy, Mark Todd on Charisma and Lucinda Green on Beagle Bay. Badminton, Avon (045421 272). Ends Apr 15.

FRENCH FURNITURE: The grandest furniture on offer this spring. The magnificent ebony and tortoiseshell marquetry commode by Andre Charles Boulle, made around 1700, might reach £500,000; its pair in the Hermitage in Leningrad and they were presumably made for someone close to the King. There is also a fine suite of Louis XIV walnut chairs, a beautiful little Sevres mounted Louis XVI. The wood table in the manner of Weisweiler, and a richly ornate Louis XVI veris marini cupboard. Christie's, 8 King Street, London SW1 (01-838 9060) at 11am.

NATIONAL STUDENT DRAMA FESTIVAL: British students present a week of tightly packed programmes from afternoon to late night. Osborne's *Look Back in Anger* repeats Sir John's performance in *Passing Time*, by Rhys Adrian, in which he and Raymond Huntley (also 80 this month) play two 90-year-olds looking back over the past.

are open discussions. Breton Hall, Wakefield, West Yorkshire (092485 523). Course ticket £28; individual events £1.10-£2.20. Until Apr 19.

Friday

ART NOUVEAU: A two-session sale of decorative arts of the late nineteenth and twentieth centuries includes a magnificent William Morris carpet at one of the time scale and a fine group of pots by contemporary potters (including Lucie Rie, Hans Coper, Liz Fritsch) at the other. Sotheby's, 34-36 Bond Street, London W1 (01-493 8080) at 11am and 2.30pm.

TARZAN: *Greystoke: The Legend of Tarzan, Lord of the Apes*, the first film directed by Hugh Hudson since his much-garlanded *Chariots of Fire*, contains the last screen appearance of Sir Ralph Richardson as the seventh Earl of Greystoke. Tarzan is played by a young American actor, Christopher Lambert, and the supporting cast includes three actors from *Chariots of Fire*, Ian Holm, Nigel Davenport and Cheryl Campbell. Cert PG. ABC Edgware Road (723 5901); ABC Fulham Road (370 2636); Warner West End (493 0791); and on national release.

SILKWOOD: Meryl Streep stars in Mike Nichols's new film. See page 17.

THE GOLDEN SEAL: Torquil Campbell plays a boy whose unusual friendship with a legendary golden seal brings him up against ruthless seal hunters. Also with Michael Beck, Steven Railsback and Penelope Milford. Directed by Frank Zúñiga; produced by Samuel Goldwyn Junior. Cert PG. ABC Edgware Road (723 5901); ABC Fulham Road (370 2636); ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (836 8861); Classic Haymarket (839 1527); Classic Oxford Street (836 0310); and on national release.

FOOTLOOSE: A venerable musical plot (swinging youngsters versus ultra-square parents) receives its latest variation in a film once scheduled for Michael Cimino, director of *Heaven's Gate*. Kevin Bacon stars as the new teenage resident in a town where dancing is outlawed; John Lithgow plays the local minister determined to uphold old ways. Directed by Herbert Ross. Cert PG. ABC Bayswater (229 4149); ABC Edgware Road (723 5901); ABC Fulham Road (370 2636); ABC Shaftesbury Avenue (836 8861); Classic Oxford Street (836 0310); Plaza Plocecity Circus (437 1234); and on national release.

LADY AND THE TRAMP: Revival of the Disney studio's first Cinemascope cartoon feature - a slender tale about a pedigree spaniel's romantic affair with a mongrel. Originally released in 1955. The sweet-toothed should find it agreeable. Cert U. Cinecitta Pantons Street (830 9772); Classic Tottenham Court Road (836 6148); Studio Oxford Circus (437 3300); and on national release.

ALL OUR WORKING LIVES: Ambitious 11-part documentary series which traces the history of British industry since 1814, making use of the memories of shop-floor workers and managers and archive film. A theme of the programmes is how Britain, which led the world in so many fields during the nineteenth century, was overtaken by foreign competitors in the twentieth. The point is well made in tonight's opener, which deals with shipbuilding. BBC2, 9.25-10.25pm.

GIELGUD AT 80: On the eve of his eightieth birthday Sir John Gielgud talks to Michael Billington in a special edition of *Billington* which also includes tributes to King Street, London SW1 (01-838 9060) at 11am.

Collecting

Fun and games inspired by the fakes

"What fun it is when someone takes an enormous amount of trouble to be really naughty", said a former distinguished member of the British Museum staff apropos the great forgeries exhibition held by that institution in 1961.

All museums have their forgers' collections (whether they admit it or not) and some collect forgeries as deliberate policy. Nothing concentrates the mind of the experts more than the possibility that their aesthetic appreciation might be called into play, and the examination of genuine and fake side by side is a most rewarding exercise.

Taking fakes seriously and collecting them is a strenuous but exciting pastime. A good moment to buy is often just after the denouement - the fake has been revealed and the seller wants out at almost any price. A salutary story on this theme is told by H. P. Kraus, perhaps the greatest book and manuscript dealer in current practice, in his autobiography *A rare book saga*. He bought a beautifully illuminated manuscript for a high price. He took it to the Pierpont Morgan library in New York where the curator, the formidable Belle da Costa Greene, threatened with an icy stare and told him it was a fake. A sample of the work of the "Spanish forger". So he sold it at 10 per cent under cost to a discriminating collector but after further study it was accepted as genuine again, which I believe it still is. If the wheel were to turn again and the Spanish forger attribution accepted, then its price would plummet.

The Spanish forger is interesting and unusual among forgers in being the subject of a complete oeuvre catalogue, *The Spanish Forger* by W. Voelkle and R. S. Wicks. He was active between 1870-1910 and produced extremely appealing pastiches of fifteenth and sixteenth-century illuminated manuscripts characterized by the script faces and daring decolletage of the ladies; the limited number of colours of the costumes and superficial treatment of their folds; the over-



Deceptive art: Miniature by the Spanish forger auctioned at Sotheby's in 1983 with two others as forgeries for £1,600

theatrical postures and hard gestures of the stock figures and the use of emerald green, a copper arsenite pigment which was not available before about 1814.

His sugary confections are now collected on their own account and a good miniature may cost as much as £300. He provided, of course, that it is a genuine Spanish forger and not, by some unchristened and unidentified practitioner. The fake market in this respect follows the normal art market rules. One intriguing thought is that intensive and intelligent collecting might reveal more clues as to who the Spanish

forger was, since he has never been publicly identified. Many of the forgeries were marketed in France (the sobriquet Spanish forger is due to an historical accident) and more work needs to be done on provenance since the pedigree of the forgeries must lead back to a common source - their perpetrator.

Christopher de Hamel of Sotheby's has suggested that the technical quality of his painting indicates a training in mimicry at one of the flourishing schools of manuscript facsimile-making in mid-nineteenth century Paris. He might well have come from the atelier of Henri Leon Curmer (1801-1870), a publisher who produced a series of fine books with elaborate decorations after Medieval manuscripts. His *Les Evangiles des Dimanches et Fetes* (Paris, 1862-64) includes some illustrations remarkably close to the Spanish forger in taste and technique.

Or was the Spanish forger perhaps Ictilio Frederico Joni, well known as a forger in other fields? His remarkable autobiography, translated into English as *Affairs of a Painter* in 1926, describes in considerable detail the operation of a forgery workshop in Siena. Besides forgeries of quattrocento paintings - there is a fine triptych in the Courtauld - he specialized in fakes of the *Tavole di Biccherna* or Siennese tax records, the covers of which are a famous series of elaborately decorated book bindings. "For the punchwork decoration I first used knitting needles of varying thickness... later I discovered a way of doing it with a small drill. I made the bronze bosses at corners of the cover look old by bathing them in ammonia, and for the little iron plates which served as a clasp in the centre, I used tincture of iodine which rusted them in just the right way."

Joni's book covers (the contents were not important and he did not reproduce them) were sold with great success for a number of years. Like many of the best forgers, he had genuine artistic talent and could work well in a pastiche style: he was not a mere copyist.

Fake book bindings are now collected seriously: a binding supposed to have been made for the bibliophile Canzani made over £300 in a sale in Monte Carlo a few years ago. It was a most skilful piece of work of a type not uncommon, being a genuine sixteenth-century binding with nineteenth-century additions giving a false provenance. I nearly fell for it. Real Joni fakes are now rare on the market and a fine example might well cost over £1,000 if it were authentic.

John Collins

Out and About

Crafty quirkiness of a one-man creation

Carshalton Beeches exists in the popular imagination (if it exists there at all) as a kind of ultimate suburb - a Surrey dormitory, asleep and dreaming its dreams of *rus in urbe*. The reality, oddly enough, is very little different. As you step from the commuter train and stroll down Beeches Avenue, the main street of downtown C.B., you might almost think yourself back in an earlier, more innocent phase of English middle-class history.

You pass by quaint mock-Tudor shops, then big, confident semis and picturesque "cottages" of the 1920s and 1930s. All are separated from the road by a hedgerow and grassy bank, over which tower the trees that give the area its name. There is even a pillar-box of Victorian vintage - something of a rarity these days.

Halfway down Beeches Avenue is a survivor that is far more interesting and far more surprising. Little Holland House is surely the quirkiest and most unlikely monument of the arts and crafts movement. There it stands - not all that remarkable from the outside but, in essence, exactly as it left the hand of its creator.

For this little house was designed, built, decorated, fitted and furnished by one man - a disciple of Ruskin, Morris and Carlyle, who bought his plot of land in Carshalton Beeches, built his "ideal house" in what was then "unspoiled rural country", and lived in it, with his family, to a ripe old age.

His name was Frank R. Dickinson. He was largely self-educated, he never had much money, and he never achieved any sort of fame. But - with the help (at various stages) of his brother, his wife, a bricklayer and a labourer - he painstakingly built a monument to himself, his family and, above all, his ideals.

Frank R. Dickinson died in 1961 - surely one of the very last of his kind - the house remained entirely unmodernized and somewhat past its best. In 1972 it came on to the market, and the London Borough of Sutton, taking an admirably enlightened



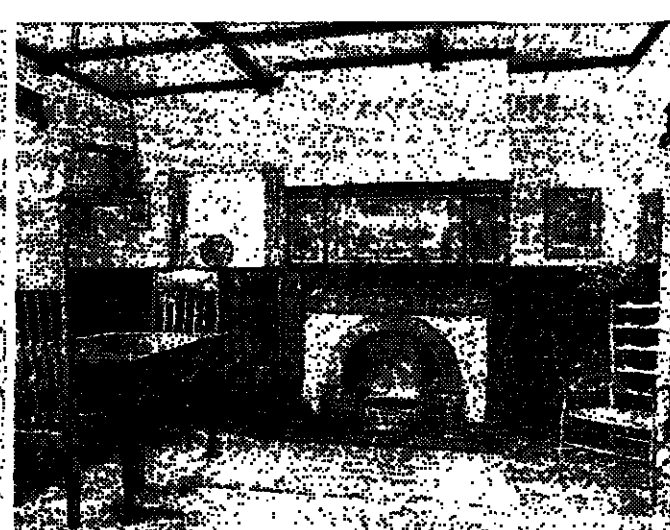
Artistic versatility: Dickinson's spacious living-room and his self-portrait, hung in the lobby

initiative, bought it, restored it sensitively, and installed unobtrusive mod cons.

They opened it to the public in 1973, and have since maintained it as a "living" house, with a succession of resident curators. And so it is that the curious can now view Little Holland House in all its glory (or nearly all, for the garden is as yet largely unrestored).

As you step through the wide front door - built thus because Dickinson thought width was welcoming - you enter immediately a world of clean-lined, pure-minded utopianism, of aesthetic uplift wedded to ethical rigour. Dickinson did not believe in useless entrance halls, so there is "just a small lobby" dominated by his powerful self-portrait, before one enters the main living-cum-sitting room which stretches from the front of the house to the back and where the Dickinsonian ethos is most densely concentrated.

Over the central mantelpiece is an emblematic triptych making a point about sound husbandry, set above a neo-classical frieze and a "Tudor" fireplace surrounded by arts and crafts tiles - an extraordinary combination which very nearly worked. The firescreen and fire-irons are the versatile Dickin-



son's own work, as are the table, the chairs, the lampshade, and a remarkable "organ-style" coal-box which was his very first effort at woodwork.

A second fireplace has copies of paintings by Turner and Watts, and set among the wood panelling are little relief profiles of Dickinson, his family, and an aged John Ruskin. The ceiling is of timber with heavy joists and beams, and at either end of the room are crossbeams carved in a manner that Ruskin would have approved. At eye level, the staircase banister promisingly exposes its underside.

Upstairs, the bedroom is dominated by the fine bed which was Dickinson's second do-it-yourself project; it bears an elaborately carved motto on its headboard: "Oh sleep it is a gentle thing" (from "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner").

Another fitting quotation runs round the painted frieze at the top of the wall - this one from Longfellow: "Stars of the summer night, hide your azure deep. Hide, your golden light. Sleep! Sleep! This frieze had been painted when Dickinson found himself unable to maintain it, it was rediscovered during restoration. The fireplace here has a plaster panel taken from Burne

Jones subjects, and there is a dressing table of Dickinson's own construction. Here, as throughout the house, are a number of Dickinson's paintings, of which he left a considerable collection: landscapes, copies, pictures of Carshalton as it was, and various thematic and symbolic works.

There also survive - from his later years, when his eyesight was failing - an autobiography, containing much about Little Holland House, and a number of poems, all redolent of his vigorous, practical and intense idealism.

But it is the house itself which is Dickinson's true memorial, and this time-capsule in deepest suburbia must surely be among the most remarkable, least known and least expected survivors of its era. It is a little gem, shining all the brighter for its commonplace setting, deep in the sleeping heart of Carshalton Beeches.

Nigel Andrew

Little Holland House, 40 Beeches Avenue, Carshalton Beeches, Surrey, is open to the public from noon to 6pm on the first Sun of each month from March to Oct and on the Sun and Mon of the Easter, Spring, May Day and Summer bank holiday weekends. Admission free.

مكتبة الأصيل

FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

The riddle of the stock markets

Common stocks in New York are hitting 12-month lows; Tokyo has climbed to record highs through the Tokyo-Dow Jones 11,000 barrier; London is skulking diffidently somewhere between the two extremes. In a world of stock markets at their most Sphinx-like, scattering riddles throughout the global village like confetti.

Economic fundamentals justify Wall Street's weakness. Bounding expansion in the real economy, an accelerating federal deficit, and money supply rising strongly account for the move toward higher US rates. Prime rates have risen another notch to 12 per cent, and in an election year, the trade off between higher interest rates and higher inflation favours, in the short term, in monetary correction. Long bond yields of about 12½ per cent presaged the drop in Wall Street. If Argentina's reluctance or inability to pay its debts results in massive write-offs from bankers' loan portfolios, then the movement toward higher prime rates would gather strength, as banks try to claw back at home some of their South American losses. Super bears among London brokers envisaged a fall in the Dow Jones industrial average.

Tokyo's lift off also has some rational justification. Japanese institutions are cash rich, and reportedly are switching rapidly into domestic stocks and away from Wall Street. Tokyo in the spring tends in any event to be a good time for equities. With gross domestic product heading towards a 5 per cent growth rate this year, corporate profits set to rise by some 40 per cent, and the current balance of payments account heading for a \$20bn surplus, a record market price/earnings multiple of about 30 loses some of its terror.

In London, now off some 40 points after the post-Budget advance to the record 900 mark, sentiment is two-way. This year's sharp rise in dividends should help to underpin share values, but a record reverse yield gap of more than 5½ per cent looks pacy, especially when the market needs to absorb at least £2½ billion of new paper (Enterprise Oil; Reuters; and British Telecom) by the year end. More worryingly, the market now apparently lacks a definite intellectual shape. The bears would not be surprised to see the FT index shed up to 300 points.

Oils have performed well in New York and Tokyo, while airlines have underperformed sharply. Car manufacturers lagged in both markets. In Tokyo the top performers in the March surge were banks, security houses and non-life companies - normally a sign that the market is starting to froth. Precious metal stocks have performed well since January in New York. In London discount houses, office equipment, textiles, tobaccos and mining finance have shone.

War on building societies

Britain's 206 building societies face a fight in their attempt to persuade the Government to liberalize the laws governing their activities. The clearing banks, finance houses and insurance companies are already lobbying hard to have restraints put on the societies as it becomes apparent to them that the Government is in sympathy with the societies' attempts to move into insurance, retail banking, estate agency, foreign exchange, land ownership and expansion abroad.

The societies have diplomatically lowered their sights: they no longer contemplate taking over banks and finance houses. But they want to be free to offer unsecured loans.

Finance houses, most of which are subsidiaries of the clearing banks, would be particularly affected.

Building societies, let off the lease,

Greenwich means a great deal

In the last three years more than 90 foreign companies have obtained Stock Exchange or USM listings in the UK. While the large majority of these were straightforward introductions to add the prestige of London listing, foreign companies have still raised over £75m in the UK capital market since 1981. US companies, which have accounted for 44 listings, have led the way.

Yet impressive as these figures are, they have gone largely unheeded. It has been left to accountants Peat Marwick to put them together, inspired to do so by the large number of enquiries the firm was receiving from overseas companies looking for a London quotation.

There is every reason to think that the movement into London will continue and yet no one has really established why foreign companies are so interested (apart from the cachet). Peat's analysis is fairly standard. London offers a varied choice ranging from a full Stock Exchange listing through the USM to the OTC market. The self-regulatory environment in the UK makes reporting requirements less onerous and encourages greater flexibility.

The absence of exchange controls and London's stability, integrity and professional skills are clearly factors. There is also the powerful, practical reason that in international time zone terms London is happily placed between the major capital markets of both East and West: the Greenwich meridian is London's greatest inheritance.

There is nothing new in this analysis. The talk of internationalization of capital markets, improving technology and the growth of international links between the financial institutions contains elements of both truth and expectation. None of this, however, explains why some smaller overseas companies whose shares are not publicly traded in their own countries have chosen to go public for the first time in London. Perhaps they feel that the UK capital market is a soft touch. On a more practical level it could be that the lower administrative costs and more manageable prospectus requirements make London the obvious choice for the company which needs cash in a hurry.

A foreign company's London listing is good business for the financial services sector. Peat lists eight categories of adviser which have an eager hand in arranging a stock market quotation.

could also charge substantially less than estate agents - 1 per cent compared with the 2-3 per cent. They are striking fear in the building industry. The Nationwide and Abbey National have already worked with local councils to build homes and flats for purchase by those on housing waiting lists at prices substantially below those ruling in the open market.

Insurance companies already pay the societies substantial commissions (£250m last year) for insuring homes but some societies would like to write insurance themselves.

The Government is unlikely to give them all they are asking for but in housing the temptation is considerable. Government financial support would be reduced if societies and local authorities worked together in supplying homes. Entry into insurance might be the carrot.

ECGD privatization likely to be urged by inquiry

By John Lawless

The Sir Peter Matthews' committee of inquiry into the future of the Export Credits Guarantee Department is to recommend that it becomes a semi-privatized corporation.

The report is likely to be published next Wednesday, eight months after the chairman of Vickers was asked to review ECGD's entire operations.

The Department of Trade and Industry will make the recommendations the subject of a public discussion, but will not announce a decision until June or July.

The most controversial proposal directly affecting exporters is that there should be a change in the way premiums for insurance cover are levied. The largest companies have for a long time complained that, under the present system, they subsidize smaller ones.

This will pose a considerable dilemma for the Government:



Sir Peter: proposal poses a dilemma

should it follow its instincts and allow a fairer, more competitive, fees structure, which could be a financial deterrent to the vast majority of firms trying to sell in overseas markets?

Although ECGD raised its premiums by a flat 5 per cent this week, roughly in line with inflation, it added surcharges for firms with bad claims records and for those selling to riskier markets. It also lowered discounts for extended term cover.

That will push up its income by 8.5 per cent, or £25m, at a time when claims pay-outs have reached proportions, doubling in the last two years to reach £678m in the 11 months to the end of February.

The full public debate to be launched next week could not come at a worse time for ECGD. Having survived two previous inquiries, in 1978 and 1972, the claims build-up has

export insurance market, because of the "comprehensive" nature of its policies which insist that exporters must place all business with ECGD, or none at all.

Private insurers would particularly like to see a separation between commercial and political insurance. While their actuaries can assess a buyers' bankruptcy potential, they are generally wary of being asked to predict the likelihood of Third World governments staying in power.

The CBI has been one of the strongest proponents of an inquiry.

A considerable proportion of British sales go to developing countries that are now most in trouble, such as Nigeria.

To opt out of covering those - and ECGD has always persevered after private cover has disappeared - would be to wipe out British sales in both the short and long term.

USM listing refused for Stanley Gibbons

By Jonathan Clare

The disastrous Stanley Gibbons attempt to return to the stock market ended yesterday with the rejection of its bid for a USM listing.

Feigenbaum, the £45,000 a year chairman, and news that permission to deal had not been granted by the Stock Exchange.

Mr Feigenbaum, the biggest shareholder with a 56 per cent stake in the stamp dealing company, volunteered his resignation at a board meeting.

Mr David Stokes, the managing director, said: "It was considered to be in the best interests of the company."

The company's stockbroker, Simon & Coates, said that adverse press comment concerning Mr Feigenbaum and the question of his relationship with the Philatelic Traders Society was the issue which had not gone ahead.

The stockbroker said that those issues had "in the apparent view of the Stock Exchange created questions of its suitability which prevents them from permitting dealings on the Unlisted Securities Market".

Simon & Coates, which has a strong record of bringing successful companies to the USM, still hopes that Stanley Gibbons will win a quote. But in the short term the aim is to reduce Mr Feigenbaum's stake, possibly through outside shareholders.

A public quote is technically impossible until after June because the Stock Exchange's rules require accounts audited within the last nine months.

Cheques for applications for 30 per cent of the shares at 100p to raise £2.5m were put into a special account. Applicants will have their money returned plus interest if it amounts to more than £10.

Mr Stokes said: "We're not blaming anybody for what happened but we are obviously very disappointed. We don't know the criteria (the Stock Exchange's Quotations Department are looking at. But the press comment obviously ruined the reputation of Mr Feigenbaum in the eyes of the Stock Exchange."

The report had outlined Mr Feigenbaum's interests in "local label" stamps which are not officially recognized. A disagreement over the description of "propaganda labels" in advertising promotions led to his expulsion from the Philatelic Traders Society in 1976.

Companies House will not be sold

By Our City Staff

The Government has formally dropped plans for the privatization of the Companies Registration Office, more familiarly known as Companies House, which keeps the official records of almost a million British companies.

Privatization of the service, which provides vital information for everyone from the Fraud Squad to takeover tycoons, was proposed in November 1982 as one way of cutting the number of civil servants.

Yesterday Mr Norman Tebbit, the Trade and Industry Secretary, said that not only would Companies House remain part of the Department of

Trade and Industry, but staff would be increased by 100.

The extra staff will be used mainly to chase companies defaulting on the requirement to submit returns. The number of defaulters has grown from 285,000 in March 1980 to 399,000 at March 1 1984. The staff will also be told to make more use of High Court orders requiring defaulters to deliver returns.

Mr Tebbit said in a parliamentary reply that the number of companies registered by Companies House since 1979 had increased by almost a third, and the number of documents last year was 35 per cent higher than in 1982.

Mortgage loophole to end

By Vivien Goldsmith

A loophole for home buyers which allows unlimited mortgage tax relief in special circumstances is being closed by the Finance Act.

But the Inland Revenue is inviting claims from those who may have qualified for the tax relief within the past six years, but did not come forward.

The loophole arises when someone buys a new house and takes on a new mortgage while still retaining the old house and mortgage. It also arises when a

Hopes rise on Nigeria debt talks

By Peter Wilson-Smith

Banking Correspondent

Talks between Nigerian officials and its main trade creditors over the refinancing of overdue trade debts will continue in London today amid signs that the gap is narrowing.

A meeting yesterday over differences on the terms of the refinancing proposals was reported to have made progress by both parties.

Mr Alhaji Abubakar Alhaji, permanent secretary of the Nigerian Ministry of Finance, said yesterday: "There has been a great deal of misunderstanding which the meeting has cleared. We made very good progress."

He hoped that the outstanding issues could be settled today. The trade creditors meeting with the Nigerian team were representing a group of about 350 companies which are being advised by the merchant bankers Morgan Grenfell.

They have been concerned with the quality of the six year promissory notes which they are to be offered under the refinancing, and have been seeking to ensure that the notes are backed by a legal agreement, which provides for parity of treatment between all creditors and puts them on a par with other medium-term creditors.

Pound fails to recover

The pound, which weakened sharply overnight on Thursday, failed to regain much ground yesterday as the markets remained nervous of the impact of the miners' strike and the counter-attractions of High American interest rates. Sterling ended the day half a cent down on the dollar at \$1.4285, while its trade-weighted index lost 0.2 to 79.8 per cent of its 1975 value.

But earlier fears that Thursday's hike in US banks' prime lending rates would push up the dollar and put pressure on interest rates at home, subsided yesterday. The dollar, after surging in New York trading overnight, drifted down during the day to close in London 1.53 pence lower at Deutschmark 2.6207. The latest unemployment figures - which some analysts feared would provoke the Federal Reserve Board to tighten credit policy for fear of overheating the economy, showed no change, and dollar interest rates eased.

In the London money markets, interest rates came off a fraction, removing any immediate danger of a rise in bank base rates.

STOCK EXCHANGES

FT-SE 100 Index: 1096.3 down 5.9 (high: 1096.3 low: 1090.0)
FT Index: 865.4 down 1.6
FT 1000: 82.79 down 0.02
FT All Shares: 516.21 down 2.87
Bargains: 31857
Datastream USM Leaders Index: 110.66 down 1.59
New York Dow Jones Industrial Average (latest): 1190.76 up 0.21
Tokyo Nikkei Dow Jones Index: 10154.73 down 78.20
Hong Kong Hang Seng Index: 1064.32 down 19.35

INTEREST RATES

Domestic rates:
Bank base rates 8½%
Finance houses base rate 9½%
Discount market loans week fixed 8½%
3 month interbank 8½ - 8¾%
Euro-currency rates:
3 month dollar 10½% - 10¾%
3 month DM 5½% - 5¾%
3 month FF 14 - 13¾%
US rates:
Bank prime rate 12.00
Fed funds 10½%
Treasury long bond 95¼% - 95½%
ECGD Fixed Rate Sterling Export Finance Scheme IV Average reference rate for interest period March 7 to April 3, 1984 inclusive: 8.976 per cent.

GOLD

London fixed (per ounce):
am \$378.75 pm \$380.25
close \$380.75 - \$381.25 (\$266.75 - \$267.25)
New York (latest): \$381.50
Treasury (per ounce):
\$392 - \$393.50 (\$274.75 - \$275.75)

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Value of Fund £4,105	Value of Fund £4,133	Value of Fund £4,303	Value of Fund £4,574	Value of Fund £4,987	Value of Fund £6,345
Amount Invested £2,100	Amount Invested £2,100	Amount Invested £2,100	Amount Invested £2,100	Amount Invested £2,100	Amount Invested £2,100

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Your biggest problem will be selecting the best from the rest.

Obviously, the most important factor in making your decision will be the size of your pension fund when you retire. And that will be determined by the success, or otherwise, of your chosen investment managers.

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The table above is taken from the latest publication on personal pension plans published by the Financial Times. It compares the actual results of an investment in the Target Personal Pension Plan - linked to the Target Managed Pension Fund - with five of the market leaders in individual pension plans.

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*Self-Employed Pensions Handbook 1983.

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Chemical group's profits up

Yorkshire Chemicals increased its pretax profit for the year to December to £568,000 - more than double 1983's £244,000, but well below the expected profits of £1.3m. Turnover was up by nearly £8m to £28.3m. The dividend is 1.25p (1p in 1983).

Tempos, page 22

● Lyle Shipping yesterday announced increased pretax losses of £5.4m for 1983, against losses of £4.7m the previous year. Group turnover fell from £25m in 1982 to £20.6m last year. No final dividend means the total dividend for the year will be 2p, compared with 7.5p.

Tempos, page 22

● After a brief attempt at a rally, the New York Stock Exchange moved lower again yesterday. The Dow Jones industrial average was off about 1½ points.

CURRENCIES

LONDON CLOSE

Sterling \$1.4285 down 55pts
Index 79.8 down 0.2
DM 3.7475 down 0.0150
FF 11.5250 down 0.0250
Yen 322 down 2.0
Dollar
Index 127.2 up 0.4
DM 2.6207 down 0.0153
NEW YORK LATEST
Sterling \$1.4295
Dollar DM 2.6210
INTERNATIONAL
ECU £0.598022
SDR £0.739512

NEWS IN BRIEF

Distillers to take \$250m loan

The Distillers Co is arranging to borrow \$250m (£176m) through a seven-year revolving Eurocredit to finance its recently announced US purchase of Somerset Importers from Esmark. A Distillers spokesman said yesterday.

The credit, which is being arranged by Robert Fleming and Co, the bankers will be syndicated among up to about 15 banks and will carry a ½ per cent margin over Eurodollar rates.

● There is a danger of advertising standards declining if reputable companies feel they are losing trade as a result of questionable advertising by rivals, Gordon Borrie, director general of Fair Trading, told the Institute of Marketing. He called for legal back-up to the Advertising Standards Authority's controls.

● W H Smith and Son has linked up with the computer software distributor, Softcam, in an attempt to increase its share of British business software supply in the next three years. The partnership is called WHS Softcam.

● Sheffield Brick has sold the business and certain assets of its manufacturing subsidiary, S. W. Fabrications, for £400,000, which was paid in cash on completion. In 1983 S. W. Fabrications showed a profit of £71,865 after management charges of £40,000.

Poverty-trap families 'are now worse off'

By Frances Williams, Economics Correspondent

The sharp increase in the income tax threshold announced in the Budget will have virtually no impact on the poverty and unemployment traps faced by poor families, while the changes in housing benefit rules will make them worse, according to an analysis from the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

Calculations by Mr Andrew Dilnot, research officer at the institute, suggest that the Budget tax measures will leave unchanged at 4.3 per cent the proportion of families in the poverty trap who face marginal "tax" rates of more than 60 per cent, as additional earnings are eroded by extra tax and loss of means-tested benefits.

The steeper tapering of housing benefit following government cutbacks to the scheme will raise that proportion to 5.6 per cent in 1984-85, Mr Dilnot estimates.

Only about 20 per cent of those taken out of tax by the 7 per cent increase in real (inflation-adjusted) tax thresholds are heads of households likely to be caught by the poverty trap - about 40,000 families in all. The rest are youngsters living at home or married women bringing in a second wage, the IFS says.

Mr Dilnot says the "better off on the dole" problem, or unemployment trap, has now largely disappeared, following cuts in unemployment support. The higher tax thresholds and

the reductions in housing benefit actually make the problem marginally worse. Mr Nigel Lawson, the Chancellor emphasized in his Budget speech the need to ameliorate the twin traps but raising tax thresholds is not a cost-effective method to deal with them, the IFS says.

In a separate paper, delivered yesterday at a conference organized by the IFS, Mr Nick Morris argued that the Chancellor's plans for future tax cuts, which depend on holding public spending constant, assume that those reliant on the state for their income, mainly pensioners and public servants, forego any share in increasing national prosperity.

If pensions are raised in line with growth rather than prices only, and public sector wages rise more quickly, the scope for tax cuts would be more than halved, Mr Morris calculates.

Just as the predicted public spending crisis "of gigantic proportions" by 1990 was never really likely, "so there is no magic which will create tax cuts without depriving some groups," Mr Morris says.

● Brazil's exports were more than twice its imports during March, achieving a record \$1 billion trade surplus. So far this year to \$2.4 billion, well on target for the \$9 billion wanted.

Brockhouse now backs Evered bid

By Philip Robinson

The management of Brockhouse yesterday changed its mind for the third time about which of the competing rescue takeover bids for the loss-making west Midlands engineering company it should recommend. In doing so, it has pushed the price of the company from about £5m to almost £11m.

Those competing for control are Caparo Industries, run by Mr Swarj Paul, which already owns a 20.3 per cent stake, and Evered, the Arab-backed specialist metals group, which, by acting in concert with Oceanside Investments, an Arab investment company, speaks for 11 per cent of Brockhouse.

Brockhouse, under pressure from its bankers this year, was seeking a huge injection of fresh money. In mid-February, Caparo Industries agreed a scheme which would have injected £5m cash.

At the time, Oceanside bought a 7.75 per cent stake. Within hours of a meeting seeking Brockhouse shareholders' approval for the Caparo scheme, Evered bid £7.3m in cash and shares. Last week, Caparo returned, topping it by £2.1m.

Evered came back yesterday with terms which value Brockhouse at £10.95m.

Terms are 17 Evered shares for every 30 Brockhouse shares. After adjusting for the Evered rights issue, the share bid values Brockhouse shares at 63.35p.

The board accordingly recommends all ordinary shareholders to accept.

Late yesterday afternoon, Caparo purchased a further 225,000 Brockhouse shares at 53.5p each. Under the takeover rules it has increased the cash element of its offer to match that level, but has left unchanged its previous bid terms.

Barratt pushed to year's low

By Derek Pain

The once high-flying shares of Barratt Developments, Britain's biggest housebuilder, fell to a 1983-84 low yesterday as stockbrokers continued to downgrade the company's profit prospects.

At one stage last year the shares hit 278p. Yesterday they lost 2p to 128p.

Since the company, created by Sir Lawrie Barratt, announced disappointing interim figures there has been a rush by analysts to revise their profit forecasts. The process continued yesterday when, for the second time since the midway figures, a leading stockbroker reduced its profit projections.

At one time the firm was going for £57m for the year. Then £52m. Yesterday it cut its forecast to £45m. This would compare with £52.2m last year.

The controversy over timber frame homes represents only part of Barratt's discomfort. The stockbroker says that Barratt has had a poor second half year with land prices moving up more quickly than house prices and the housing market as a whole is flattening out.

Barratt is a highly geared company and a relatively modest fall in its house sales has a disproportionately large impact on profits.

The company seems, at the moment, to be taking the full blast of the City's displeasure with housebuilding. Shares of other housebuilders, although off their best, have not suffered as much.

The stockbroker believes that Barratt shares will continue to underperform and should be avoided by all but income funds.

For much of yesterday shares drifted lower with the FT 30-share index down by 8.6 to

588.4 at the start. But in the last hour prices perked up as buyers took advantage of the new time facility for the next three-week account.

The P & O shipping group was one leader to resist the general malaise. The share steamed ahead 12p to 312p on another wave of takeover speculation. Although Trafalgar House has been given the all-clear to bid by the Monopolies Commission, it has not moved.

Expect the Temple Bar Investment Trust to throw off its rather staid image and adopt a much more active role. It has already moved into unit trust management and acquired 29.7 per cent of the Alfa Investment Trust. The Alfa connection is intended to allow it to adopt a wider investment policy than its present articles permit.

The next development could be the acquisition of a substantial loss discount to assets than most investment trusts, were unchanged at 100p yesterday.

mission, it has, at least for the time being, chosen not to do so. But if P & O was in buoyant for, the British and Commonwealth shipping group, which now had a wide spread of interests outside its traditional seafaring activities, suffered a 30p decline to 88p.

Government stocks had a steady day, recording modest gains in quiet trading.

Composite insurance shares had a dull time, even Commercial Union. With the takeover speculation abating the shares slipped. However an early 4p fall was trimmed to a mere 1p at 219p. Insurance brokers were mixed. Sturge Holdings said yesterday it is planning a share listing in a few years. In the meantime, it is placing shares among its 1,000 underwriting

members as well as some City institutions.

The share quotes of eight plantation companies were suspended as the talks to take them under full Malaysian control reached an advance stage. All eight are, directly or indirectly, related to Harrison and Crossfield which once had an extensive web of plantation interests. But its main company, Harrison Malaysian Plantations went under Malaysian control in September, 1982. In January HMP opened talks with its former parent about buying out the H and C interests, which are probably worth about £20m.

Shares suspended are: Castlefield (Klang); Holyrood; Kuala Selangor; Sogomana; Kint Kelas; Sungai Bahru; Dorankande and Malaysia Rubber.

Applied Computers surged 52p to 715p as hopes over its Sirius computer grew. Commercial Bank of Wales, which made the transition from the rule 163 market on Thursday, slipped from 128p to 123p.

By far the biggest gain of the day was by the little known C. A. Speriati (The Special Agency) where Mr P. Nash and Mr J. Alexander have already acquired nearly 60 per cent of the capital and are bidding 155p a share for the rest.

But the arrival of Mr Cyril Barrard with a 6.6 per cent shareholding sent the shares soaring 115p to 325p. Even at its new exalted share level, C. A. Speriati, a Manchester business trading as a button and trimming merchant, is valued at just £325,000.

Y. J. Lovell, the building contractor, fell 2p to 166p on news that it is buying Essex and Suffolk Properties, a privately owned housebuilding company for £11.64m, £7.8m of which will be satisfied in cash and the

rest by the issue of 2.5 million shares which have already been placed on behalf of the vendors.

John Finlan, the building group, was unchanged at 180p after news that Mr Graham Ferguson-Lacey's Amadeus has increased its share stake to 20 per cent. Mr John Finlan, chairman, said, "There are many different projects currently under discussion with Amadeus. We welcome its involvement."

Avana Group has not, unexpectedly, dropped its contested bid for Bassett Foods. Shareholders representing only 7.5 per cent of the Bassett capital accepted the offer. The shares fell 7p to 146p on the news. Avana also eased, by 2p to 522p.

Among clothing shares, Lincoff Kilgour held steady at 86p, although Dryton Consolidated continues to express a deep interest in the business. It has acquired another 135,000 shares lifting its shareholding to 23.13 per cent.

Expect a weekend announcement from the merchant bankers Robert Fleming of a new Japanese investment trust raising \$60m to investment in quoted companies which would be equivalent to Britain's USM. Fleming has vast experience of the Tokyo scene and more funds may follow. This one will be based in Bermuda and run by Jardine Fleming, which has £1 billion under management, half it in Japan.

R. H. Morley, a USM-traded polythene business was also unchanged. Technology Resources, a Swiss investment company, has increased its shareholding to 18 per cent by buying shares from two Morley directors, Messrs J. Ellis and E. H. Eggleston.

A cheerful statement from Mr Robert Holloway, managing director of the Lorin electric switch group, helped the shares 2p higher to 145p. He says the order book in January was at a record level and "we confidently expect our sales this year to reach £3.75m". In the previous year sales were £2.8m with profits of £567,000.

Continuing speculation that Mr Robert Holmes & Court is increasing its shareholding in Fleet Holdings, the Express newspaper group, added 2p to the shares at 164p.

Lyle Shipping tumbled 14p to 80p on the plunge into losses. I D and S Rivlin, the little textile group where both Mr David Wickins and Mr Michael Ashcroft have built up shareholdings, slipped 19p to 93p. Hartness Group, continued to respond to its 400 per cent profit jump, hitting 52p. Brewers G Riddle came in for attention gaining 11p to 176p.

Equity turnover on Thursday was valued at £283,008m (26,975 bargains). Gilt bargains totalled 3,409. The number of British and Irish shares traded was 178.8m.

MONEY MARKETS

Short date period rates softened in expectation of easier money conditions next week.

The activity was mainly at the short end - up to three months - in the morning, though interest switched to the longer dates in the afternoon.

"Fives" were bought at 8½ per cent and "sixes" at 8¾ per cent. A few buyers were also nibbling out at 11 and 12 months.

Interbank, overnight money traded down from 8¼ to ¾ per cent to 7¼ to ¾ per cent in the morning.

Rates eased further to about 7 per cent at the close.

Local authorities were interested only at the extreme short end of the market.

Dollar rates drifted quietly back from firmer opening levels that came after the overnight rise in some US prime rates to 12 per cent.

The authorities took £364m of bills first thing at established rates, and followed with purchases of a further £344m of bills at midday.

By this time, houses had taken money at rates mostly between 8¼ and 8 per cent, and were not prepared to pay much above 7½ per cent for further funds.

FOREIGN EXCHANGES

A drab end to the week saw sterling trying to recoup opening weakness against the dollar and Eurocurrencies, but it failed to make up more than half the day's fall.

After trying to pass \$1.43 after lunch, it finished 55 points down at 1.4285. Its trade-weighted index ended 0.02 down at 79.8, the same as at noon.

The pound finished down 2 centimes against the franc at 11.5250, 0.75 of a penny at DM3.7475, 0.5 a cent to the guilder at 4.2275, but unchanged to Swiss francs at 3.11. It lost a yen at 322, against almost 2 yen earlier.

In quiet afternoon conditions, the dollar lost a good deal of its early strength as American unemployment figures were unchanged and Fed funds rates opened lower. After highs above 2.63, the dollar closed 35 points better to the mark at 2.6205; a centime better to French francs at 8.0650, 0.25 of a centime to Swiss francs at 2.1740 and 30 points to the yen at 225.30.

TEMPUS

Yorkshire Chemicals hit by accounting snag

After 12 months of confident talk about recovery the Yorkshire Chemicals profit bandwagon came to a shuddering stop yesterday. Pretax profits were less than half the £1.3m which had been expected, mainly due to the discovery of a £500,000 shortfall in the stock figure. The discrepancy resulted from a deficiency in accounting procedures and inaccuracies on the weight and concentration of products delivered.

The problems have now been resolved, but the management has been working on unsound figures for the entire financial year, leading to an overstatement of both profit margins and expectations. It is a bitter blow to Yorkshire Chemicals' management, which has struggled to bring the last three years back to profitability and set it up for expansion.

The product and market mix have been carefully adjusted to bring the necessary scope for profits improvement, and the company has been slowly shifting the balance of its operations away from the dyeing business which contributed most to the loss. This has been achieved more by an expansion of special products than a reduction in dyeing, now showing signs of growth.

Yorkshire Chemicals still does 80 per cent of its business overseas and suffers more than most at the hands of foreign currency fluctuations. The second half of the year brought bad news on this front - realized gains of £151,000 in the first six months made way for losses of £84,000, and sales and margins ended £300,000 lower than if they had been translated at the average rates prevailing in the first half.

The stock market penalized share price sharply yesterday bringing it down 10p from its high for the year of 69p to 59p. The reaction to the poor results was understandable, but with the stock problems out of the way and the pound weakening against the dollar, the company will not be too disheartened. The benefits of improved stock control, a new currency management effort and improving world markets should all begin to filter through in 1984.

quoted companies in the shipping sector.

Shipping analysts have been arguing that freight rates for bulk carriers need to increase by up to 50 per cent before shipowners achieve a worthwhile return on capital, so nobody was expecting good news from Lyle Shipping's results for 1983.

But with only the barest indication that rates are beginning to harden and a near doubling of losses from shipping activities to £8.2m, the market marked down Lyle shares by 14p to 80p on yesterday's figures.

Pretax losses of £5.04m, against losses of £4.7m last time, would have been much worse without the inclusion of a £3.4m credit, set aside from last year to take account of the anticipated rating problem in 1983.

The rather grim-looking balance sheet also included a nasty jolt in the shape of a turnaround from profits of £1.4m from offshore services in 1982 to losses of £1.17m last time.

Here the problems have been caused by a lack of activity in the North Sea, where the division depends upon fabrication and diving support work in the development and maintenance phases of oilfield development.

Even Lyle's diversification into electronics through its acquisition of a computer process-control business led to losses of £141,000, offset partly by profits of £36,000 from separate computer distribution venture.

Lyle is also nervous about the Japanese Sanko group moving from the tanker business to freight, by buying 100 new freighters which will compete directly with its 40,000-tonne general cargo vessels which the group has on order.

Lyle is so heavily locked into the shipping and offshore business that its only hope is for a dramatic increase in freight rates to ease its high gearing and improve cash flow. It seems that 1984 will not be the year when the company returns to profit.

Budget changes to the corporation tax regime are still to be analysed in depth. Many companies are insisting that the tax position is not a criterion for investment, but it is clear that any valid decision cannot be taken without assessing the tax effect on returns.

The point is emphasized by the latest research, from W. Greenwall, the broker. Its comprehensive analysis shows that windfall gains on existing assets are 12 per cent of their cost after the fall in basic rate corporation tax.

Bringing forward investments into an earlier year can save up to 9 per cent on the cost of assets, although cash flow after maintaining an investment will be hit hard, especially in 1985 and 1986.

Any company which has not reviewed its investment plans and its deferred taxation provisions for the next few years would be well advised to take a look at Greenwall's research. It is apparent that there is much work to be done in the traditional areas of discounted cash flow and sensitivity analysis. No company likes to think it is being dictated to by the tax system but when there are genuine benefits available by tailoring investment policy to the tax changes it becomes churlish to ignore them.

The benefits to company post-tax profits and share valuation will be most noted in the stores, electrical and insurance sectors, where many companies have had high effective tax rates which will now drop sharply.

During the recession their pretax profits were rising faster than their post-tax profits. This process is now likely to go into reverse.

The new 35 per cent basic corporate tax rate will be below the world average and companies with overseas subsidiaries will find this an incentive to remit profits to Britain. There might also be a switch of corporate borrowing from a British parent to a foreign subsidiary, with a higher rate of tax, which would reduce the net interest payable. This again transfers profits from abroad to Britain. Banks in particular, are believed to be actively considering this option.

Lyle Shipping

The continuing overcapacity in world shipping rates continues to take its toll of British fleets and the small number of

Corporation tax

The implications on corporate investment policy of the

Anger over Palmerston secrets

By Andrew Cornelius

Attempts to force disclosure of some details of Mr Sighismund Berger's property empire failed amid angry scenes yesterday at an extraordinary meeting of Palmerston Investment Trust shareholders.

Palmerston is one of two publicly quoted property companies controlled by Mr Berger, one of Britain's biggest private landlords whose affairs are shrouded in secrecy.

Yesterday angry tenants and a hostile group of shareholders with a 16.85 per cent stake in Palmerston demanded that the company should take a more responsible approach to the

interests of its shareholders, tenants and the community at large.

The shareholders proposed that Mr Norbert Goldberg, a businessman with knifwear and property interests, should be elected to the board to defend the rights of the minority shareholders and help to improve Palmerston's public image. Mr Goldberg and members of his family called for the company to circulate details of its properties and the rental income derived from them.

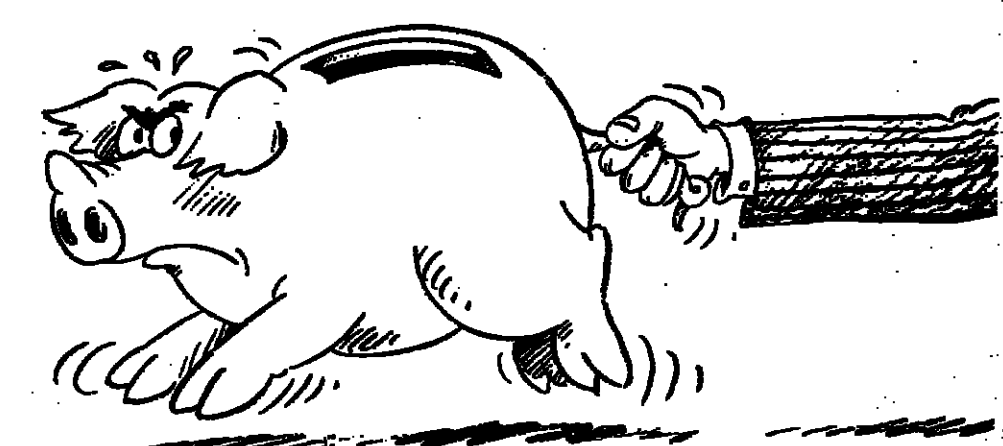
Both proposals were defeated after a stormy two-hour meeting in north London.

Mr Berger, who controls about 65 per cent of Palmerston shares, was unable to attend the meeting. Mr Philip Rose, the chairman, took questions, with the help of a solicitor.

The Goldberg family has been fighting for more information to be released about Palmerston's affairs since it acquired the 16.85 per cent share stake 20 years ago.

Mr Rose said that he did not accept "that our company image is bad".

"I believe that this company's properties are being managed properly," he said.



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The International Growth Trust ☐ The Oppenheimer Family of Funds ☐

THE FUTURE

World stockmarkets are going through an uncertain phase - making it much more difficult for investors to select one in preference to another. A fully international investment, managed by experts with a track record beyond question, makes a great deal of sense. As an example the trust's portfolio was as follows on the 26th March 1984:-

Country	% of Portfolio	Country	% of Portfolio
UK	37.2	Europe (continued)	
Japan	24.2	Norway	(7.7)
Europe	19.0	USA	12.2
Sweden	(0.5)	Hong Kong	1.7
Belgium	(0.8)	Singapore	1.0
Holland	(3.9)	Canada	0.8
Germany	(6.1)	Cash	3.9

OPPENHEIMER

Oppenheimer is the fund management division of Mercantile House Holdings, the UK international financial services company. Oppenheimer has established a formidable reputation in the investment world - and, during 1983, we enjoyed particular success with the International Growth Trust and the Practical Investment Fund, both of which topped their sectors.

Meanwhile, in the USA, we managed the top-performing mutual fund in 1981, 1982 and 1983. Now, around the world, the Group's funds under management amount to more than £6,000,000,000. This figure represents the interests of over 900,000 investors.

Oppenheimer

MEMBER COMPANY OF
Mercantile House Group
INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL SERVICES

By Philip Robinson

Any company that reviewed its provisions for cars would be wise to take a look at this research. It is here is much to be learned in the treatment of discounted cash sensitivity and any company likes to be in the distance to be better when it benefits.

	Apr 5	Apr 4	
AMF Inc	13%	13%	Yst Instrnt Sncp
AMR	31%	33	Yst Penn Corp
Allied Chem	66	59	Yord
Allied Elect	41	47	CAF Corp
Alus Chalmers	12%	12%	CFE Corp
Alcoa	27%	28%	Gen Dynamism
Amstar Inc	24%	24%	Gen Electric
Amstar Hess	29%	30%	Gen Foods
Am Brands	54	54%	Gen Mills

PREET			PRET	
APR 3	APR 4		APR 3	APR 4
30%	30%	PFG Ind	20%	20%
6%	6%	Practor Gamble	40%	40%
24%	25%	Pub Ser Kl & Gas	20%	20%
14	15%	Raytheon	30%	37%
3%	3%	RCA Corp	80%	80%
40%	40%	Republic Steel	20%	21%
23%	23%	Rockwell Ind	10%	10%
45%	45%	Reynolds Metal	10%	10%
		Rockwell	10%	10%

Vivien Goldsmith

Seaload Containers Limited
6 Duke Street, London W1M 5AA
Telephone 01-487 5075

	Apr 5	Apr 4	
AMF Inc	13%	13%	Yst Instrnt Sncp
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Alus Chalmers	12%	12%	CFE Corp
Alcoa	27%	28%	Gen Dynamism
Amstar Inc	24%	24%	Gen Electric
Amstar Hess	29%	30%	Gen Foods
Am Brands	54	54%	Gen Mills

[illegible]

ABN Bank	8½%
Barclays	8½%
BCCI	8½%
Citibank Savings	9½%
Consolidated Crds	8½%
Continental Trust	9%
C. Hoare & Co	8½%
Lloyds Bank	8½%
Midland Bank	8½%
Nat Westminster	8½%
TSB	8½%
Williams & Glyn's ...	8½%

† Mortgage Rate Index.

* 7 day deposits on terms of up to £10,000. 0½%; £10,000 and over £20,000. 0¾%; £20,000 and over, 7½%.

INSURANCE FUNDS

Net	184	103
Managed	96	103
Property	95.7	103
U.K. Equity	99.5	103
American	99.5	103
Pacific	107.5	103
European	103.9	103
International	100.4	103
Fixed Interest	95.7	103
Index Linked	98.0	103
Deposit	95.8	103
Net	184	104
Gross	99.1	104
Pen Managed	95.5	104
Pen Property	95.5	104
Pen U.K. Equity	105.0	104
Pen American	106.1	104
Pen Pacific	103.5	104
Pen European	101.5	104
Pen Int	97.7	104
Pen Fixed Int	95.8	100
Pen Index Lkd	98.6	100
Pen Deposit	95.8	100

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Member of the Building Societies Association and Investors' Protection Scheme.
 Assets exceed £2,000 million. Over 450 branches and agents. See Yellow Pages.
 *Current rates: 6.25% net¹ 8.93% gross² paid annually on balances below £10,000. The rate of interest paid on the Cheltenham Gold Monthly Interest Account may vary from that paid on the Cheltenham Gold Account.
¹Gross equivalent for basic rate tax payers.

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

Paying over the odds for your pleasure

In the spring, a home owner's fancy often turns to tennis courts and swimming pools - particularly swimming pools, sales of which boomed during last year's scorching summer.

Of course such luxuries are expensive. A hard tennis court complete with nets costs at least £8,000. Even a grass court, unless you are growing your own, will cost between £3,000 and £4,000. Swimming pools are not cheap either - not by the time you have bought heating equipment. They tend to cost at least £6,000 or £7,000 and you can, of course, splash out and pay a great deal more.

The good news is that building a tennis court or a swimming pool is considered to be a *bona fide* home improvement by the Inland Revenue which, seems for once to have its priorities right for once. And up to the overall £30,000 borrowing threshold you get full mortgage interest tax relief on the money you borrow to instal this luxury.

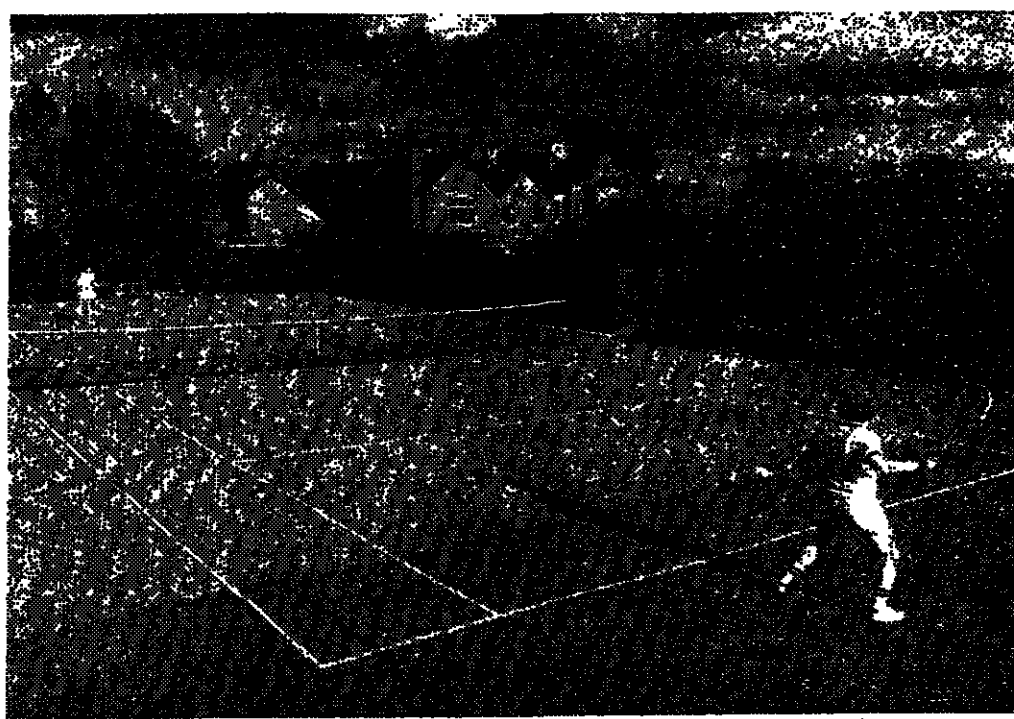
Specialist firms usually offer credit terms to customers but the chances are you will be paying through the nose for the deal. The best idea is to get a top-up for your mortgage from your bank or building society. This is usually relatively cheap money and you can spread the repayments over the remaining period of your mortgage.

However, some banks and

building societies take a rather dour attitude to the idea of lending money for such frivolous purposes and there is an understandable reluctance to indulge the already well-housed when money is in short supply. So whether you have any luck in getting a top-up depends on whom you borrowed from in the first place. The Nationwide Building Society, for instance, says it will lend in principle to borrowers who want to build tennis courts and swimming pools - but not at the moment, because demand for their funds is "excessive".

At the Abbey National, on the other hand, there is a good chance you would get the money - at a price. Many societies have readopted the system of differentials - charging a higher rate for further advances. If a tennis court or swimming pool is regarded as a luxury item Abbey would expect you to pay 3 per cent. And if the top-up, that is 13 1/2 per cent. And if the top-up brought your total borrowing to more than £25,000 there would be an extra charge of half a per cent in addition, on the whole of the loan. This could work out expensive.

It is much the same story with the banks. National Westminster says it is not keen on leading money for what it terms "superficial improvements". At least, it is not keen to lend to



A tennis court could cost £8,000 but may not add to the value of your house

existing borrowers through their mortgage. But it would be happy to lend under the home improvements loan scheme. And that, there are no prizes for guessing, will cost you much more than a top-up mortgage. Up to 19 per cent APR for a fixed 10-year loan.

At the Midland, however, the chances of getting to top-up to pay for it all are very good at the moment. And the extra money will cost you 11.25 per cent, the same as the basic Midland mortgage rate.

Even if your bank or building society is happy to lend money for a tennis court or swimming pool, there are a number of things to think about. The value of your property is unlikely to go up by as much as it costs for installation. Estate agents say a tennis court is usually a more attractive addition than a swimming pool. A family with

very young children, for instance, might shy away from a house with a pool. And a lot of people don't want the bother of looking after it - the drudgery is always a complaint among pool owners.

The point is that neither item is a big selling feature and could be very much the reverse. Unlike an extension, it does not necessarily increase the value of your home. So it may be cheaper to move to a house which already has a tennis court or a swimming pool if you are determined to acquire one.

And if you are already heavily borrowed there could be a problem with security. The bank or building society will have rules concerning on what proportion of the total value of your property it will lend. Since pools and tennis courts do not automatically raise the value of the property in line with cost, the arithmetic may not stack up very favourably.

According to the Building Society Association, the classic pool or tennis court owner would be owner, has a well established mortgage that bears little relation to the market value of his home. It also depends on what kind of property you have. What ranks as an attractive feature for a house standing in a couple of acres could look rather ridiculous swamping the back garden of a suburban semi.

SAVINGS

Investment trust offers stake in the top ten

The stream of new savings products continues unabated - three big names have launched funds this week to try to soak up what appears to be a never ending supply of cash for personal investment.

The most interesting of the three is the new investment trust introduced by Commercial Union. Basically, this offers a stake in the 10 best performing investment trusts as an addition to the existing range of CU funds available to policyholders of one of the group's self-employed pension plans or unit-linked savings products.

The logic behind the new fund - and in insurance-linked savings terms it is a new product - is this:

Over the decade to the end of 1983 the top 10 trusts outperformed both British stock market indices and the unitholder index, which charts the average performance of unit trusts. And because investment trust shares sell at a discount to assets (the discount on the funds is now 20 per cent) investors are getting assets on the cheap. No one could be happier than the investment trusts themselves, who cannot advertise and who have agonized for years about how to get their fair share of the personal savings market.

Samuel Montagu, the merchant bank, is launching a unit trust group, starting with four specialized funds. Montagu

manages the income and general funds of its parent company, the Midland Bank - but not for long. The new funds that Montagu has set up are designed to be sold through intermediaries, not bank branches. The upshot is that next week the Midland will announce plans for the management of its unit trusts.

The first four Montagu funds are a gold and precious metals trust, a Japan performance trust, a US special features trust and a British market features trust. The latter will split its portfolio between small companies. Unlisted Securities Market stocks and traded options. Minimum initial investment is £500.

At Imperial Life, the number of unit-linked funds is to be tripled with 10 new specialized vehicles. They include an index-linked gilt fund, a second property fund and a money market fund, and can be linked to the full range of Imperial Life savings products.

Performance of the group's existing funds has been quite respectable - the equity fund was the second best performer over the last 12 months. Imperial Life will be paying brokers and other intermediaries up to 5 per cent commission on single premium business. This seems a bit high but is this the going rate these days? Any advance on 5 per cent?

Margaret Drummond

FAMILY MONEY MARKET

Banks
Current account - no interest paid.
Deposit accounts - Midland, Barclays, Lloyds, Natwest 5 1/2 per cent, seven days notice required for withdrawals. National Girobank 6 per cent. Lloyds extra interest 8 1/2 per cent. Monthly income account Natwest 9 1/2 per cent. Fixed term deposits £2,500-£25,000 - 1 month 8.0, 3 months 8.25, 6 months 8.5 per cent. Rates quoted by Barclays. Other banks may differ.

Local authority yearling bonds 12-month fixed rate investments, interest 9 1/2 per cent basic rate tax deducted at source (can be reclaimed by non-taxpayers), minimum investment £1,000, purchased through stockbroker or bank.
Local authority town hall bonds Fixed term, fixed rate investments, interest quoted gross (basic rate tax deducted at source reclaimable by non-taxpayers). 1 year Neath 9 per cent. 2 years Tandridge 9 1/2 per cent. 3-4 years Hammersmith & Fulham 10 1/2 per cent. 5 years Hammersmith & Fulham 10 1/2 per cent. 6-7 years Edinburgh 10 1/2, 8-9 years Wokingham 10 1/2. 10 years Thameside 10 1/2 per cent. Further details available from: Chartered Institute of Public Loans Bureau 01-634 0465 and after 3pm on 01-630 7401 (also on Prestel no 24808).

Building societies
Ordinary share accounts - 6.25 per cent. Extra interest accounts usually pay 1 per cent over the ordinary share rate. Regular savings schemes - 1.25 per cent over BSA recommended share rate. Extra interest accounts: 1 to 1.25 per cent above ordinary account. Rates quoted above are those most commonly offered. Individual building societies may quote different rates. Interest on all accounts paid net of basic rate tax. Not reclaimable by non-taxpayers.

Investors in industry
Fixed term, fixed rate investments of between 3 and 10 years, interest paid half-yearly without deduction of tax: 3 years, 9 1/2 per cent; 4 years, 10 per cent; 5 years 10 1/2 per cent; 6 years, 10 1/2 per cent; 7-10 years, 10 1/2 per cent. Further information from 91 Waterloo Road, London SE1 (01-928 7822).

Finance house deposits (UDT)
Fixed-term, fixed rate deposits, interest paid without deduction of tax. Five-Fifty scheme: 6 months 8 1/2 per cent; 1 year, 9 1/2 per cent; 2 years, 9 1/2 per cent.

Foreign currency deposits
Rates quoted by Rothschild's Old Court Int. Reserves 0481 26741. Seven days notice is required for withdrawal and no charge is made for switching currencies.

National Savings Deposit Bond
Minimum investment £500 max £50,000. 11 1/2 per cent variable at six weeks notice reducing to 10 1/2 per cent from May 3rd. Credited annually without deduction of tax. Repayment at three months notice.

Guaranteed Income Bonds
Return paid net of basic rate tax.
Sterling 7.52 per cent
D mark 8.42 per cent
Yen 8.42 per cent
French Franc 1.83 per cent
Swiss Franc 1.83 per cent

March RPI: 344.0 (The new RPI figure is not announced until the third week of the following month.)

Profit sharing with top-performing companies worldwide!

If you have £15 a month to save, you can now put the power of the world's most exciting economies to work for you!

Better than a Bank or Building Society.

Five year growth record - initial investment £1,000	
GRELLA International Fund (2/79-2/84)	£2,330
Building Society annual share rates (2/79-2/84)	£1,522
Bank Deposit typical rates (2/79-2/84)	£1,455
Retail Price Index (1/79-1/84)	£1,653

NOTES
(i) Capital Builder premiums are, of course, invested monthly. The £1000 lump-sum figures have been used for ease of comparison.
(ii) All figures are after tax for a basic-rate taxpayer.
(iii) GRELLA growth is that of GRELLA Accumulation Units.

And when you compare the results to other forms of investment, you'll see how much better off you would have been with GRE over the last five years. In fact, if you had invested your money in a bank or building society you would have lost spending power! The beauty of GRE's Capital Builder is that your money is managed by GRE's professional investment team, and is spread across a wider selection of stocks and shares than an individual investor could normally manage. It brings within your reach the kind of high-performing international stocks and shares normally only available to those with specialist information and very extensive funds.

Budget Latest.

All the information in this advertisement takes full account of the March 1984 Budget.
When you cash in your Capital Builder after 10 years or more, you enjoy your return absolutely free of all Income Tax or Capital Gains Tax. And if you want to continue to build your savings after 10 years you can. It's your choice all the time.

Life assurance cover built in!

You are covered immediately you are accepted for a guaranteed minimum sum, and for a greater amount as soon as the value of your investment overtakes this figure.

Age Next Birthday	£20	Monthly Investment £30	£40	£50
25	£8,100	£12,150	£16,200	£20,250
30	£7,200	£10,800	£14,400	£18,000
40	£5,400	£8,100	£10,800	£13,500
50	£3,600	£5,400	£7,200	£9,000
59	£1,980	£2,970	£3,960	£4,950

Maximum age 59 next birthday

What return can you expect?

Since its inception five years ago, Capital Builder International Fund has produced the extraordinary growth rate of over 20% p.a. compound. Of course, future growth cannot be predicted from past experience and the value of units may go down as well as up.

Application for a CAPITAL BUILDER International Fund

You must declare all facts which are likely to influence the terms of acceptance of this proposal to GRE Linked Life Assurance Ltd. If you are in doubt as to the relevance of any particular information, you should declare it, failure to do so might affect the benefits payable. GRE reserves the right to call for a medical examination (which GRE would pay for). Please answer these four questions (please tick):
1. Have you consulted a doctor during the last 12 months? Yes ☐ No ☐
2. Have you ever had an illness requiring hospital treatment or are you now receiving treatment for any medical condition? Yes ☐ No ☐
3. Do you participate in any activity which might be regarded as hazardous? Yes ☐ No ☐
4. What are your height and weight? ft in as lb If you answer 'Yes' to 1, 2, or 3, please give details on a separate sheet of paper.

Your doctor's name _____ Address _____

Postcode _____

Date of Birth _____ Occupation _____

If the fund were to grow at 7 1/2% p.a. your £50 per month investment could reap a reward of £7,403 after 10 years, while a 10% growth could bring you £8,411 tax free. A magnificent return by any standards. After 20 years the same 10% growth could give you the remarkable tax-free sum of £31,385.

See how your investment could grow after 10 years	
Your Monthly Payment	Your cash value if annual growth rate is:
£20	5% 7 1/2% 10%
£30	£2,610 £2,961 £3,364
£40	£3,480 £4,042 £4,646
£50	£5,221 £5,923 £6,728
£60	£6,526 £7,403 £8,411

NOTES
Figures apply to all ages and allow for recurring management charges (see below) and the current 5% bid-offer unit price spread. Growth assumed is that of a GRELLA Accumulation Units.

Your full premium invested every month - with no hidden extras.

Unlike some unit-linked policies 100% of your monthly premium is used to buy units. All charges are levied against the fund itself. There is an initial management charge reflected in the 5% difference between the offer price at which new units are allocated and the bid price at which units are realised. Recurring management charges are currently 3% p.a. in the first 10 years and 4% p.a. thereafter. All costs and charges are taken into account in calculating values illustrated.

A word about GRE

GRE is one of the largest insurance groups in the UK and the company is represented in more than 80 countries around the world. When you take out Capital Builder you are, in effect, employing their much praised professional investment team to work on your behalf.

Capital Builder is underwritten by GRE Linked Life Assurance Limited (GRELLA), the specialist unit-linked life insurance company within the GRE group.

Apply today!

Simply choose the amount you wish to invest each month, then complete the application below and sign the declaration. Then clip the coupon and post it along with your cheque to GRE Linked Life Assurance Limited (LF/GD), FREEPOST, Ballin Road, Lytham St. Annes, Lancashire FY8 4BR. No stamp is needed. On acceptance, your policy will be posted to you along with a Direct Debit form which is needed for your future monthly payments.

A comprehensive explanatory booklet will be sent to you with your Capital Builder policy. If you would like an advance copy of the booklet, please phone Teledata on 01-200 0200.

Money-back guarantee

When you receive your policy document from GRE, you have a full 15 days to examine it in detail. If you are in any way dissatisfied, simply return your policy to GRE. It will be cancelled and your payment will be returned without question. That's the GRE money-back guarantee.

Post the coupon today! The sooner you start to save - the sooner you can enjoy the benefits.

Declaration

I declare that to the best of my knowledge, all the above statements are true and complete in every particular and together with the statements which in the event of my being medically examined will be made to the Medical Examiner shall be the basis of the contract between me and GRE Linked Life Assurance Ltd. I consent to GRE seeking medical information from any doctor who at any time has attended me concerning anything which affects my physical or mental health or seeking information from any insurance office to which a proposal has been made for insurance on my life and I authorise the giving of such information.

Signature _____ Date _____

My broker's/agent's name is (if applicable) _____

Please send an application form for my spouse. ☐

NO STAMP NEEDED

This offer is only available to persons resident in the UK and aged under 59.

GRE Linked Life Assurance Limited.

Registered in England No. 1397655.

Registered Office: Royal Exchange, London EC3V 3LS.

F2

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The unique penalty-free withdrawal facility from the Paddington Building Society. Available with our SEVERAL DAY NOTICE ACCOUNT (8.25% net) and our FLEXIBLE ACCOUNT (8.75% net).

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Member of The Building Societies Association

FAMILY MONEY

LOANS

Cash offer with strings

Remortgages for any purpose, 100 per cent home loans and pension-linked schemes, are all available from Chase de Vere, the financial advisers. Money on first or second remortgages is on offer at 11.5 per cent for loans of £25,000 upwards. You can borrow up to 90 per cent of the value of the property up to a maximum of £60,000. The only drawback is that straight repayment loans are not available - it has to be linked to a life policy or a personal pension plan.

Professional people who are first-time buyers can borrow 100 per cent of the cost of their home with an upper limit of £100,000 at an interest rate of 11.5 per cent. Both endowment and repayment loans are available.

Other borrowers can obtain 100 per cent loans up to a maximum of £40,000 on a multiple to three times income at an interest rate of between 10.75 per cent to 11.5 per cent. Details may be had from Mr Paul Marks, Chase de Vere, 125 Pall Mall, SW1. Tel: 01-930 7242.

Pension bonus

Clerical Medical and General, one of the top performers in the life and pensions business, is offering a bonus to anyone who buys a personal pension plan between now and September: the second and third monthly premiums will be paid by CMG and G up to a maximum of £100 a month. Those eligible to buy personal pension plans are the self-employed and anyone who is not a member of an occupational pension scheme.

All-in cover

Alliance Building Society has joined the ranks of building societies offering an all-in-one buildings and contents package to homebuyers. The new scheme provides index-linked cover for all the normal perils for general buildings insurance, with no excess on claims apart from the usual £500 excess for subsidence. House contents are automatically insured for replacement cost of up to £30,000 so that there is no requirement to specify a sum insured. Premiums fall into one of three rate bands - £2.80 for buildings and contents per £1,000 rebuilding costs in the lowest rated areas; £3.20 per £1,000 rebuilding costs in intermediate areas, rising to a top rate of £4.50 for each £1,000 of cover in areas like central London.

Spa bond improves

Leamington Spa Building Society is improving the terms on its new Spa Bond from 8.0 per cent to 8.25 per cent net of basic rate tax. Unlike most other building society investments, the interest rate does not vary but is fixed for the 12 months. Minimum investment is £2,000. Details

from Leamington Spa Building Society, PO Box 1, Imperial House, Holly Walk, Leamington Spa CV32 4J. Tel: 0226 27820. This is a limited offer.

Society guide

Everything you always wanted to know about building society accounts, the different interest rates offered, terms and conditions, is available from Information Presentation, which produces *The Best of Building Society Investments*. The service is aimed at professionals but individuals can buy a copy of the monthly report for £3.95. The annual subscription costs £35. Anyone with £1,000 or more to invest in a building society should be able to get his outlay of £3.95 back by following the advice offered in the report and moving money to a society or account offering a higher return.

Some of the best buys being recommended include Metrogag's five-year bonds paying 8.5 per cent net of basic rate tax. Property Owners' six-month share paying 8.1 per cent. Bolton's three-month shares offering 8 per cent, but there is a host of others. Details from Information Presentation, 30 Fleet Lane, London EC4M 4YA. Tel: 01-236 0662.

New loan scheme

Legal and General and the Bank of Scotland have set up a new loan back facility related to personal pension plans. The sum that the bank will lend is based on the cash available at retirement through one of the Legal and General's range of self-employed or executive pension plans. This loan can be used for personal expenditure - buying a first home, home improvements - or for business purposes. Repayment is normally on an interest-only basis, with the capital being repaid at the end of the loan term.



Paul Daniels' magic scheme

Helping children

Children rank lower than animals in the public perception so far as charitable donations are concerned. But in its centenary year celebrations, the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children is trying to get children themselves interested.

The Give An Hour for a Child sponsorship scheme is being promoted through Midland Bank branches which have entry forms. Children are being encouraged to get sponsors to put up money for each minute of some worthwhile activity they undertake, such as window cleaning for an old person, or gardening for a disabled couple. Money raised goes to the NSPCC and is paid in through the Midland Bank branches. Every child who takes part has his or her name entered in a draw and 70 will be selected to attend a grand party at the end of the year.

Mr Paul Daniels, the magician, is helping to promote the scheme with the slogan "Helping Children is Magic".

Executive prospects

Norwich Building Society is promoting its Executive Mortgage Scheme, which allows young professionals to borrow a multiple of their expected earnings in five years' time - rather than the conventional multiple of current income.

The scheme is aimed at the young executive on a present salary of £10,000 or more, who is confident about work prospects. Up to £40,000 can be borrowed based on salary expectations in five years. At the start of the mortgage the monthly payments are calculated on a much reduced loan figure, rising annually until in the sixth year they reflect the full cost of the loan. The drawback is that the Norwich will charge 2 per cent more for this facility, although the loan is rearranged in year six.

New chairman

The World Wildlife Fund has got a City businessman as its new United Kingdom chairman. Mr Tim Walker, a director of fund managers, Henderson Administration, has taken over from the former UK chairman of the fund Sir Arthur Norman.

In for a duck

Greenwich Building Society's Adopt-A-Duck saving scheme, has reached the end of the first year's operations, and has been a resounding success.

The scheme, run in conjunction with the Wildlife Trust, has attracted more than 1,500 investors, each of whom has received a year's subscription to the trust's duck adoption programme, paid by the Greenwich. This helps the trust's conservation programme. The scheme has a wide appeal for children but at the end of the first year 50 per cent of its investors were discovered to be adults. More information available from Jane Sward on 0227 59355.

T & C new service

Town & Country building society joins that elite brigade of six building societies offering banking type services with interest on investments. Town & Country's Moneywise accounts pays the full ordinary share rate of 6.25 per cent, offers chequebook and standing order facilities along with a Visa credit card and personal loan facilities through Co-op Bank.

Investors must maintain a minimum balance of £250 and if the balance falls below this figure they will be charged 50p for every cheque written.

The account compares very favourably with the market leader, the Alliance Building Society's Banksave account and either are well worth considering as a viable alternative to a straightforward bank account.

Guaranteed bonds

Guaranteed income bonds paying as much as 9 per cent net of basic rate tax are available from British National Life - provided you are prepared to lock your money up for at least eight years. If that sounds like too long a term, you can get 8.25 per cent for a three-year investment with BNLI. English Insurance, a member of the General Accident group, is paying 7.7 per cent on one or two-year guaranteed income bonds with a minimum of £2,000. Over five years, Continental Life offers 8.25 per cent guaranteed with a minimum investment of £2,500. In all cases higher rate taxpayers could have a further tax liability.

Co-op link-up

The North Eastern Co-operative Society is linking up with the Co-op Bank and the North of England Building Society to set up a chain of in-store finance centres offering banking facilities, mortgages, and

other financial services such as payment facilities for gas, electricity, rates, telephone bills and catalogue accounts. At present, there are six centres in operation but by the summer, there will be 41 throughout the North East.

Tax answers

Just two weeks after the Budget *The Sunday Telegraph* has published an excellent up-to-date tax guide, *101 Ways of Saving Tax*. It contains the many tax changes contained in the Budget and answers numerous questions posed by the tax form such as: What can I do about VAT? Where should I invest my capital? What is the new position regarding life assurance premiums? The book is available from leading bookshops price £1.95 or direct from the *Sunday Telegraph*, Dept WOST, 135 Fleet Street, London EC4A, price £2.50.

US cover

A new fly-drive insurance package for motorists visiting the US copes with the vexed question of uninsured motorists' liability - a loophole which can leave motorists visiting the States dangerously exposed. Car drivers are offered up to \$2m (£1.4m) of cover for a flat premium of £56 for a two week period, or £26 for each additional week.

The USA insurance laws are obviously inadequate", said Mr Mike McRae of Budget Rent A Car which produced the package. "Too often our customers travelling to the USA were running the risk of having insufficient cover to pay the cost of compensations awarded against them after an accident or of being unable to recover compensation paid to them when injured by a hit and run, uninsured or inadequately insured motorist".

Taking a taste of your investment

Few wine investors have the opportunity to assess how their stocks are developing on a wide enough scale to consider either the potential for future appreciation or the correct time for sale.

A natural reluctance to open a sealed wooden case of a maturing wine - thereby reducing its value more than pro rata - and the inconvenience and cost of its removal from customs bond, effectively prohibit sampling and true investment evaluation.

Now Sotheby's, one of Britain's two leading wine auctioneers, has taken the initiative and is arranging four sessions over May 2 and 4 to take part in tutored tastings of the majority of the classified growths of claret from the important 1975 vintage. As Mr Patrick Grubb, one of their masters of wine, says: "There has been some recent conjecture and controversy that the earlier promise of a slow maturing vintage of great quality may never be realized".

In view of the publicity given to clarets of the 1975 vintage, this series of tastings should assure investors that in general the quality of that year is

extremely good. Where possible, samples have been drawn from stocks at each chateau to ensure that bottles are least affected by possible subsequent storage conditions.

Sotheby's will show 24 estates from St Julien, Margaux and Cantenac, including Chateau Margaux itself, at the first session on May 2 from 11am to 1pm, at £36 each. In the afternoon, 17 wines from St Estephe and Pauillac including Lafite-Rothschild and Mouton-Rothschild will be shown for £38.

The Premiers Grands Crus Classes of St Emilion and Grands Crus of 1975 Pomerol, including Ausone, Cheval Blanc and fabled Petrus, will be shown for £44 on the morning of May 4. The Graves, like Haut-Brion, and Mdoc-Sud will be shown for £30 in the afternoon.

The cost for all four sessions is £130. The tastings will be held at the Grosvenor Gallery, off Bloomfield Place, London W1, but in view of the expected demand, early booking is advised through the Wine Department, Sotheby Parke Bernet and Co, 34 New Bond Street, London W1A 2AA.

Conal Gregory

Borrowing all set to change pattern

Homeowners with endowment mortgages who may be thinking of moving will find things complicated by the Budget removal of tax relief on life policies. In the past they would simply have increased the sum assured under their mortgage endowment, probably extending the term at the same time - and carry on as before with the new premiums. Now, if they attempt to alter the terms of their existing endowment policies to take account of a bigger home loan, they will find that they lose the tax relief on their policy.

The day of the mixed mortgage is dawning as more and more homeowners find it is to hang on to their existing endowment policies which attract tax relief, and add straight repayment mortgages to fill any gaps.

The Halifax, Britain's largest building society, already has 5.28 per cent of its mortgages on a part endowment/part repayment basis, and the number is gradually rising.

When the Chancellor abolished life insurance premium relief for new policies he also decreed that existing policies would lose their tax relief if the terms were varied in any way.

In the past most people who moved house and wanted to increase their mortgage would either extend their existing policy, or take out a new endowment policy to increase their cover. In some respects there was an advantage in taking out a new policy because existing policies that had been running some time were taken out on a younger life and were better left undisturbed.

Now it is essential for people moving house to leave their existing endowment policies undisturbed to retain tax relief. But because new policies do not qualify for tax relief a repayment mortgage will probably be cheaper.

Abbey National building society said that in the past most mixed mortgages were basically endowment policies where the customer wanted a small top-up of £1,000 or £2,000 for improvement work, and it was not worth taking out a further endowment policy for such a small sum.

But now, every time someone with an endowment policy qualifies for tax relief moves house and wants a higher mortgage he or she will probably join the mixed mortgage set.

Vivien Goldsmith

HIGH INTEREST RATE CHEQUE ACCOUNT from A CLEARING BANK.

8.40%*
APPLIED RATE

Bank of Scotland
38 Threadneedle St, London EC2 8BB

8.73%
EFFECTIVE ANNUAL RATE

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NO NOTICE OF WITHDRAWAL • NO PENALTY ON WITHDRAWAL

JUST WRITE YOUR CHEQUE •

YOU DO NOT NEED TO BE AN EXISTING CUSTOMER

All the time your Funds are with us we pay you a high level of interest based on Money Market Rates.

The interest is calculated daily and applied monthly. Your cheques may be made payable to yourself or to a third party. Statements are issued quarterly but more frequently if you wish. There is no charge for the first nine cheques per quarter.

Minimum opening balance £2,500. Minimum transaction £250 other than cheques in settlement of your Bank of Scotland Visa Card Account which may be for a lower sum.

The Rate of interest is set weekly and published daily in Prestel and in the Money Market Bank Accounts Section of the Financial Times.

*Interest Rates quoted correct at time of going to press.

To: Bank of Scotland, Prepost, 38 Threadneedle Street, LONDON EC2B 2BB.
I/We wish to open a Money Market Cheque Account. I/we are aged 18 or over (please complete in BLOCK CAPITALS). Please send me an application form for the VISA Card (tick box).

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DATE _____ SIGNATURE(S) _____

I/We enclose my/our cheque for £ (minimum £2,500) payable to Bank of Scotland. Should the cheque not be drawn on your own bank account, please give details of your bankers.

MY/OUR BANKERS ARE _____

BRANCH _____

ACCOUNT NUMBER _____

For further information tick box: I/we ask operator for Prephone 8494.

BANK OF SCOTLAND
A British Bank - based in Edinburgh

For joint accounts, all parties must sign the application, but only one signature will be required on cheques.

M&G PLANNED INCOME PORTFOLIO

The M&G Planned Income Portfolio, based on five high yielding M&G unit trusts, is designed to provide twelve income payments spread over the year. At 4th April 1984 the estimated gross yield on the Portfolio was 7.4%, over 65% higher than that of the F.T. Actuaries All-Share Index. This yield is based on a Portfolio of £3,000 of which £1,000 is invested in M&G Gift and £500 in each of the other four Funds. This will provide the income distributed net of basic-rate tax in roughly equal amounts but you can also arrange to receive larger amounts at times of the year when your commitments are high (please see distribution dates in the table below).

The table on the right illustrates M&G's successful record of providing unit trust investors with increasing income over the years. Past performance is no guarantee of the future, but it is expected that income from this Portfolio will continue to grow in future. This is in contrast to a Bank or Building Society deposit, where the income can vary only in line with the general level of interest rates. The table compares the income which you would have received over the last ten years from a Building Society deposit with an investment in four M&G unit trusts.

COMPARISON TABLE

Annual income from an investment of £12,000

Year	Building Society ¹	Four M&G unit trusts ²
1974	£ 900	£ 671
1975	£ 865	£ 811
1976	£ 830	£ 902
1977	£ 840	£1,050
1978	£ 755	£1,225
1979	£1,015	£1,385
1980	£1,260	£1,579
1981	£1,087	£1,604
1982	£1,024	£1,614
1983	£ 810	£1,666

NOTES: 1. Net of tax to basic rate taxpayer. 2. Based on the Building Societies' Association's recommended rate of return on fully paid shares. 3. £3,000 invested in each of M&G Dividend, High Income, Extra Yield, and Conversion Income Funds on 2nd January 1974. M&G Gift was not launched until 1980.

In addition to generating income totalling £12,507, your £12,000 capital invested in these unit trusts would have grown to £37,799 by 4th April 1984. In contrast a comparable Building Society deposit would still be worth only £12,000, and your income from it would have totalled just £9,386 over the ten years.

However, you should remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. Unit trusts are not suitable for money you may need at short notice.

The five funds described here are all designed to produce above average and increasing income with the exception of M&G Gift, which is designed to produce a high initial income.

Dividend Fund aims for a yield about 50% higher than that of the F.T. Actuaries All-Share Index from a wide range of ordinary shares.

High Income Fund and Extra Yield Fund both aim for a yield about 60% higher than that of the F.T. Actuaries All-Share Index, from a portfolio of ordinary shares.

Conversion Income Fund aims to provide a similar return, but its portfolio of ordinary shares has a strong bias towards smaller companies.

Gift & Fixed Interest Income Fund aims to provide a high initial income with prospects of some capital growth, from investment in government securities.

READ THIS TABLE BEFORE INVESTING	DIVIDEND	HIGH INCOME	CONVERSION INCOME	EXTRA YIELD	GIFT
Launch date (approx)	May '64 50p	April '69 50p	Feb '73 50p	Nov '73 50p	Dec '80 50p
Price of Income units at 4th April 1984	256.8p	201.1p	134.4p	146.9p	60.5p
Estimated current gross yield	5.81%	6.18%	6.42%	6.65%	9.64%
% rise in Fund offer price since launch	413.6%	302.2%	168.8%	193.8%	21.0%
% rise in F.T. Actuaries Index over same period	381.8%	215.7%	165.4%	198.7%	15.6%
Distribution dates	15 January 15 July	31 January 31 July	31 March 30 September	1 May 1 November	31 March 30 June 30 September 31 December
Trustee	Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited	Clydesdale Bank Plc	Courts & Co.	Barclays Bank Trust Co. Limited	Courts & Co.

*F.T. Government Securities Index

Prices and yields appear daily in the Financial Times. An initial charge of 5% is included in the offered price. Gift Fund bears an annual charge of up to 1% plus VAT (currently 3%), of the Fund's value deducted from net income. The other Funds presently bear an annual charge of 1% deducted from gross income, but during 1984, unit holders will be asked to approve an increase in the annual charge to a maximum of 1%, with the intention of restricting it to not more than 3% at least until 1988. Income is distributed on the appropriate dates net of basic rate tax. You can buy or sell units on any business day. Contracts for sale or purchase will be due for settlement 2 or 3 weeks later. Remuneration is payable to accredited agents; rates are available on request. All the Funds are authorised by the Secretary of State for Trade and Industry. Gift Fund is a narrower-range investment and all the other Funds are wider-range investments.

M&G Securities Limited, Three Quays, Tower Hill, London EC3R 6BQ.

FROM £3,000

DO NOT SEND ANY MONEY. A contract note will be sent to you stating exactly how much you owe and the settlement date. Your certificate will follow shortly.

TO: M&G SECURITIES, THREE QUAYS, TOWER HILL, LONDON EC3R 6BQ. TEL: 01-626 4588.

PLEASE INVEST a total of £ (minimum £3,000) in Income units of the following Funds, divided as indicated, at the price ruling on receipt of this application. (If no split is indicated 1/3rd of the total will be invested in Gift and 2/3rd of the total in each of the remaining Funds). Minimum £500 in any one Fund.

02 FULL FORENAMES (Mr/Ms/Ms)

SURNAME

04 ADDRESS

POST CODE

90 PP 481514

SIGNATURE

DATE

DIVIDEND	HIGH INCOME	CONVERSION INCOME	EXTRA YIELD	GIFT
£	£	£	£	£

Member of the Unit Trust Association

M&G

Registered in England No. 80776 Reg Office above This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland

THE M&G GROUP

Quiet end to account

§ Forward remains are permitted on two previous days

10p Ord (116a)	170
10p Ord (1a)	110-5
10p Ord (14a)	14a
10p Ord (75a)	90
10p Ord (116a)	90-1
10p Ord (116a)	90-1
10p Ord (116a)	142-2
10p Ord (116a)	205-15
10p Ord (125a)	106
10p Ord (125a)	230-5
10p Ord (125a)	248-8
10p Ord (125a)	143-5
10p Ord (125a)	235-13
10p Ord (125a)	120-3
10p Ord (125a)	475-43
10p Ord (125a)	5

MARKET	1975-1982	Sep 8 Dec 7 Mar 7
In U.S. \$ per oz		
301	380-382	

[illegible]

Corporation	31	0.7	2.7	1.2	1.4	1.4
General Fund	11	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Capital	27	0.6	2.2	1.0	1.1	1.1
Guard	168	3.8	13.5	6.0	6.6	6.6
Resources	388	9.2	32.4	14.6	15.2	15.2

is as all. Forecast dividend. Corrected
payment based. Price at suspension.
include a special payment. For
-mer figures. Forecast earnings. $\frac{1}{2}$
-mer. Earnings. E act up or down split.
price adjusted for late dealings. ** NO

Issues	Class	Price
(1959)		143
Ord 1674)		180
200 200 Ord		155-5
200 200 Ord 18221		20 1/2
200 200 Ord 18241		17 1/2
200 200 Ord 18242		110-5
200 200 Ord 18243		14 1/2
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200 200 Ord 18246		140-2
200 200 Ord 18247		205-15
200 200 Ord 18248		330-5
200 200 Ord 18249		145-5
200 200 Ord 18250		235-13
200 200 Ord 18251		130-5
200 200 Ord 18252		475-5
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FAMILY MONEY

THE TIMES-MONEY PROGRAMME UNIT TRUST COMPETITION

Gold still the old reliable in a year of uncertainties

Gold is back at the top of the list for dozens of entrants in our unit trust competition as Britannia's Gold and General reaches second place after the first two months of the competition.

Only one of our panel of experts - Mr Mark Searle of Richards Longstaff - even gave gold a chance, and he picked it as his third choice. The Britannia fund, which last year languished at the bottom of the charts, has now moved up to third place. He explained: "If gold is everything else fails, then I chose this fund. I felt it was an American election year, there would be a great deal of shuffling and economic problems might not be faced up to - inflation could regain a hold."

His other two choices, GT Far East and Mercury American, respectively, have not done so well. He is still optimistic about the United States. "I am confident that America

he figures show the value on April 1 of £100 invested 2 months ago on an offer-to-offer basis, net income reinvested. Figures supplied by Invested Savings.

he figures show the value on April 1 of £100 invested 2 months ago on an offer-to-offer basis, net income reinvested. Figures supplied by Invested Savings.

THE UNIT TRUST EXPERTS' SELECTIONS				
Panel Member	First Choice	Second Choice	Third Choice	
Jamie Berry	F & C Far East	172	105.1	
Berry Asset Management				
Peter Edwards	Henderson Japan	151	105.3	
Peter Edwards	Special Sits			
Peter Hargreaves	Perpetual American Growth	508	111.5	
Mark Searle	GT Far East	215	104.3	
Richards Longstaff				

represents very good value and hopefully by the end of the year we will see the US market very much higher."

He does not believe that the outcome of the Presidential election will depress US shares much. And he sees the fortunes of his first choice - GT Far East - greatly tied in with what happens in the US.

The gold funds were, as always, popular with readers who entered the competition and several, like Mrs Bernice Cohen, chose three gold trusts.

She said: "I think the United States economy is awfully distorted at the moment and the lip service being paid to monetarism is disgusting fundamental problems - not least of

all the monumental budget deficit. My only reservation is that I might have my timing wrong. Reagan will want to manipulate things to his advantage."

Mrs Cohen is something of an expert - both on money and on competition - having won a fearfully difficult competition to years ago in Money Manage-

ment magazine. So esoteric were the questions, that Mrs Cohen had to spend three days in the Colindale newspaper library finding the answers.

She entered our competition in the "professional adviser" category and is a consultant with Investors Planning Associates.

Mr Jamie Berry, of Berry Asset Management, another of our panel members, is not convinced that gold is worth including in your portfolio. He selected his bets with a Far Eastern fund, a technology trust and, as third choice, a bolt-hole in gilts.

"So far as the competition is concerned, I think the year is mapping out more or less, as I thought it would in that the Far Eastern markets and particularly Japan, are still making most of the running."

You need to be fairly brave to invest in Hongkong at the moment, but sooner or later confidence will be restored and



Mark Searle (left): Yes to gold and US. Jamie Berry: No to gold, yes to US.

the market could look quite attractive again."

He thinks that both the Japanese and the British mar-

kets are looking somewhat stretched in the short-term, but does not see much risk of a market fall. "I don't think there

is much danger of collapse, but probably the best value now is to be found in the United States.

Hill Samuel Jap Tech	107.8	Hill Sam Smaller Cos	105.8	Prudential	104.6
Royal Trust Income	107.7	Stewart Australian	105.7	Nelstar High Income	104.6
Mayflower Income	107.6	Rosman Far East	105.7	Electra Small Cos	104.5
M&G Dividend	107.6	Ridgefield Income	105.7	Legal & Gen Equity	104.5
Aitken Hume Jap Tech	107.6	Prudential	105.7	Gartmore Commodity	104.5
M&G Conversion Inc	107.5	Chiefain High Inc	105.7	Chiefain Int & Gth	104.5
Govett Japan Growth	107.5	Wardley Commodity & Gen	105.7	Barclaybank 500	104.5
Tyndall Scottish Inc	107.2	Allied Equity Income	105.7	Vanguard Trustee	104.4
Scott Provident Int	107.2	College Hill	105.6	Britannia Far East	104.4
Mid Bk High Yield	107.2	Britannia Blue Chip	105.5	Britannia Domestic	104.4
Quadrant Income	107.1	Mencap	105.5	Allied Smaller Cos	104.4
M&G Extra Yield	107.1	Brewin Intl Growth	105.5	Allied First	104.4
Tyndall Japan Growth	107.0	Hend Income & Growth	105.5	Target Commodity	104.3
Target Income	107.0	Canonn Far East	105.5	Nat West Growth Inv	104.3
Equity & Law East	107.0	Britannia Prop	105.5	Nat W Portfolio Inv	104.3
Pearl Income	106.9	Archway Growth	105.5	Key Income	104.3
Mercury Recovery	106.9	Allied High Yield	105.5	GT Far East & Gen	104.3
Barrington Smiler Cos	106.9	Tyndall Capital	105.4	Allied Overseas Earn	104.3
Britannia Commodity	106.9	Wickmore	105.4	S&P UK Equity	104.2
Tyndall Income	106.8	Lloyds Bk Income	105.4	Pearl Trust	104.2
M&G Commodity & Gen	106.8	Head Jap Spec Sits	105.4	Midland Bk Income	104.2
Gartmore Japan	106.8	Britannia Int Gth	105.4	Lloyds Bk Small Cos	104.2
Stratton	106.8	Barclaybank Ext Inc	105.4	Bridge Income	104.2
Wardley Mkt Leaders	106.8	Allied Recovery	105.4	Allied High Income	104.2
Barrington High Yield	106.7	Stewart Brit Capital	105.3	Rosman High Yield	104.1
Franklin Extra Income	106.7	Reliance	105.3	Nat West Income	104.1
Aitken Hume Income	106.7	M&G High Income	105.3	Framlington Income	104.1
Finlay High Income	106.6	Klwin Smaller Cos	105.3	J Finlay Inv Trst	104.1
Duncan Lawrie Income	106.6	Head Fixed Interest	105.3	Vanguard Growth	104.0
Hill Samuel Far East	106.5	Hend Inc & Assets	105.3	S&P High Yield	104.0
Rescent Tokyo	106.5	Henderson Japan	105.3	Ministar	104.0
Brown Ship High Inc	106.5	Equity & L High Inc	105.3	M&G Trustee	104.0
Bridge Capital	106.5	Britannia Extra Inc	105.3	Lloyds Life High Inc	104.0
Abbey UK Growth	106.5	Britannia Com & Ind	105.3	Equity & Law UK Gth	104.0
Scott Equitable Unit	106.4	Allied Pacific	105.3	Brown Shipley Fnd	104.0
S&P High Return	106.4	Allied Sec SMLR Cos	105.3	Britannia Nat Income	104.0
Profric High Income	106.4	Lloyds Bk Yield	105.2	Allied Growth & Inc	103.9
Gartmore Income	106.4	Head Pacific Sml Cos	105.2	Norwich Union Group	103.9
Head Special Sits	106.4	Barrington Pacific	105.2	MLA	103.9
Gartmore UK SMLR Cos	106.4	Head Special Sits	105.1	Oppenheimer Int Grh	103.9
Head Pacific Sml Cos	106.4	Gartmore UK SMLR Cos	105.1	F&C Capital	103.9
Barclaybank Recovery	106.3	Allied Eastern	105.1	Allied Accumulator	103.9
Allied International	106.2	Allied Asset Value	105.1	Abbey Commodity	103.9
TSB Extra Income	106.2	Abbey Commodity	105.0	NPI Growth	103.8
Pegasus Equity	106.2	Tyndall Income	105.0	Mid Bk Smaller Cos	103.8
Lawson Aust & Pacific	106.2	Hill Samuel Security	105.0	Tyndall Smaller Cos	103.8
Brown Shipley Income	106.1	Hill Samuel Income	105.0	Hill Samuel Security	103.8
Barclaybank Invest	106.1	Tyndall Preference	105.0	Hill Samuel Income	103.8
Aitken Hume Smir Cos	106.1	Schroder Spec Sits	105.0	Barrington General	103.7
Tyndall Int Earnings	106.1	Target Equity	103.7	Tyndall Preference	103.7
Target Extra Income	106.1	S&P Securities	102.2	Schroder Spec Sits	103.7
Royal Trust Capital	106.0	M&G Converter Growth	102.2	S&P Income	103.7
Mat West Extra Inc	106.0	World Wide	102.2	Royal London Cap Acc	103.7
Barclaybank General	106.0	Barrington Gth Yld	102.2	Mercury General	103.7
Allied Balanced	106.0	Barclaybank Gth Int	102.2	Lloyds Bk Pacific	103.7
Scottish Income	106.0	Crown High Income	102.1	Crown High Income	103.7
Manulife Growth	106.0	Atlanta Jap & F East	102.1	Atlanta Jap & F East	103.7
Lloyds Bk Balanced	105.9	Arbutnot Penny Share	102.1	Arbutnot Penny Share	103.7
Gartmore Spec Sits	105.9	Abbey Assets & Earn	102.1	Abbey Assets & Earn	103.7
Framlington Capital	105.9	Abbey Worldwide Bond	102.1	Abbey Worldwide Bond	103.7
Barclaybank Trustee	105.9	TSB Income	102.1	TSB Income	103.7
Arbutnot High Yield	105.9	Allied Gth Growth	102.1	Norstar	103.6
Canonn Growth	105.8	TSB Gth & Fixed Int	102.0	Lawson Penny Share	103.6
Vanguard Spec Sits	105.8	TSB Gth & Fixed Int	102.0	Confederation Growth	103.6
Quadrant General	104.6	TSB Gth & Fixed Int	102.0	TR Income Monthly	103.6
		TSB Gth & Fixed Int	102.0	Harcourt Growth	103.5
		TSB Gth & Fixed Int	102.0	McNally Delphi Inc	103.5
		TSB Gth & Fixed Int	102.0	Schroder UK Equity	103.5

cockson, Paris

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Verdict goes to Rousillon in Trial

By Mandarin (Michael Phillips)

Rousillon can enable Guy Harwood to maintain his grip on the Salisbury 2,000 Guineas Trial Stakes by beating Chief Singer, Excuseur, Man, Kalim, and Young Turk in the main race on the age-old Bixby course in Wiltshire today.

Having won this prize in successive seasons with Reclation, Hays, and Proclaim, Harwood is better placed than most to put his finger on the pulse. And he did so without hesitation last month when he nominated Rousillon for today's race, followed by the Poule d'Essai des Poulains, the French equivalent of the 2,000 Guineas.

Defeat in the Royal Lodge Stakes at Ascot last September was the only blot on Rousillon's copybook when he was a two-year-old. Harwood now believes that there was a reason for that defeat. Rousillon, he insists, has one short, sharp finishing burst, and must be held up for it.

In that fast-run race at Ascot, Greville Stacey lay out of his ground unwillingly early. As a result, Rousillon burned up his reserves getting to Gold and Ivory instead of beating him. Now I expect Stacey, with the benefit of that experience, to lie much closer to the leaders and then delay his challenge longer before pouncing on the leaders in the seventh and last furlongs.

Apart from Rousillon and Kalim, who was runner-up to his selection's stable companion, Lord Fawn, in the Champagne Stakes at Doncaster last September, it will be

fascinating to see how Chief Singer fares in this first race since his flop in the July Stakes at Newmarket last summer. For this is the imposing colt who created one of the surprises of last season when he won the Coventry Stakes at Royal Ascot on his first appearance.

The fact that Chief Singer started at 20-1 that day masked the confidence that Ron Sheather, his trainer, had in him because he had done some spectacular homework at Newmarket beforehand. Sadly, a virus hit Chief Singer after the July Stakes and meant that we did not have an opportunity to assess him again last year.

However, a recent gallop at Newmarket with last year's Free Handicap winner, Boomtown Charlie, and that fast colt, Reclation, left on the impression that the indelible impression that the Coventry result was anything but a flash in the pan. In which case, Stacey and Rousillon may well have a fight on their hands this afternoon. However, the 5lb that Rousillon will receive from his rival should tilt the scales his way.

The 1,000 Guineas trial has attracted a less distinguished field. Meis Es-Reem, my selection, won one race at Warwick last autumn by 10 lengths, and another narrowly at Doncaster, after encountering problems along the way. She is thought to be a cut above average by Olivier Douieb, her trainer, who moved to Newmarket last September after making his name in France.

My indelible impression of a recent race at Newbury is that The Thatcher would have beaten Charter Party if only he had not misjudged the second-fence and paid for his

carelessness. Now, barring a similar nonsense, he should be hard to beat in the valuable Contibord Novices' Handicap. Steeplechase, even though the easy Liverpool winner, Tarquagan's Choice, is one of his opponents.

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Salmon Leap to rise again

By Michael Seely

Salmon Leap and Erin's Hope, who were involved in a photo finish to the Nijinsky Stakes at Leopardstown last May, meet again at the opening fixture of the Phoenix Park where their target is the Camas Park Stud race over 10 furlongs.

A three-year-old Salmon Leap was getting a stone from the year older Erin's Hope whereas on this occasion as a group one winner he has to give away 3lb to his opponent. The Nijinsky Stakes Leap will still start a very short-priced favourite to confirm the Nijinsky placings. A big horse, he always gave the impression that he would be a better four-year-old.

Salmon Leap is certainly due a change of fortune as he had luck dogged his last three outings in Ireland, France and England. A broken iron in the John McGrath Memorial Stakes rendered Pat Edworthy, his jockey, a passenger for the greater part of that event.

In the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe he made up an incredible amount of ground from a hopeless position turning into the straight to be beaten less than two lengths into fifth place by All Along, an injured miler explained why he subsequently failed to reach a challenging position in the Dubai Champion Stakes.

Nijinsky is the sire of Western Symphony, who appeared in the season's first Nijinsky Stakes, sponsored by E. P. Taylor. This would make him a highly appropriate winner as Mr Taylor bred Nijinsky.

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McHargue makes L'Orangerie to emulate Ma Biche

By Michael Seely

Darrel McHargue put his one-day temporary permit to good use at Kempton Park yesterday. And judged by the fine sense of timing he showed when winning the Lancaster Carrots Stakes on Johnny Crown, the 29-year-old former American champion jockey is going to be a force to be reckoned with this afternoon.

"Darrel's certainly a top jockey," Luca Cumani, the winning trainer, said. "He knows the horse well from the gallops, I didn't tell him what to do as you don't give instructions to a man whose ridden over 400 winners in a season."

Cumani was involved in lengthy negotiations with the Race Office before the jockey was allowed to operate yesterday. "I must have spent over two hours on the telephone on Thursday," the trainer continued. "Eventually I found a man who was very helpful. He told me that Darrel's full permit should be available by the end of next week."

McHargue was naturally elated by his victory. "I like it over here and I love Newmarket," he said. "It was great to launch my British career on a note like that."

The Oklahoma born jockey's best ever total in the United States was 404 winners in 1974, but in 1978, the year of his championship, he had 270 successes to his credit. McHargue moved to Ireland last season at the invitation of Sir John R. Finestone, a leading owner. He rode 43 winners for Dermot Weld, but the arrangement was terminated after a disagreement among the owners to the stable.

McHargue's main reason for the move was to ride for a stable where he could be a partner in the finishing mile. He has been fitted with full injection, the way he broke so quickly from the stalls.

The first big gamble of the season on an untried two-year-old went astray when Shoot Foot was beaten half a length by Cronk's Image in the Polytechnic Stakes. The first and second raced on opposite sides of the course and the result was a surprise when a photograph was called for, as Cronk's Image appeared to have the race well won.

"What a way to start owning race horses and a half-furlong event," said McHargue. "The main difficulty was to get the horse to finish. The colt must have been fitted with full injection, the way he broke so quickly from the stalls."

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SALISBURY

(Televised: 1.45, 2.15, 2.50)

GOING: good

Draw 61 to 81 high numbers best

- 1.45 DAMEHAM HANDICAP (3-y-o: £2,391: 1m) (18 runners)
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17
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2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17

Salisbury selections

By Mandarin

1.45 Viceroy Lad, 2.15 Meis Es-Reem, 2.50 Rousillon, 3.30 Schula, 3.50 Welsh Row, 4.20 Rowa (Nap).

By Our Newmarket Correspondent

1.45 Coping, 2.15 African Abandon, 2.50 Chief Singer, 3.30 Sanjaria, 4.20 Rowa.

By Michael Seely

3.20 Fletch Bay, 4.20 Rowa, 3.20 Uxtoxeer BARON BLAKENEY (nap).

2.15 SALISBURY 1000 GUINEAS TRIAL STAKES (3-y-o: £2,034: 7f) (11)

- 1.45 DAMEHAM HANDICAP (3-y-o: £2,391: 1m) (18 runners)
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17

2.50 SALISBURY 2000 GUINEAS TRIAL STAKES (Group III: 3-y-o: £10,807: 7f) (17)

- 1.45 DAMEHAM HANDICAP (3-y-o: £2,391: 1m) (18 runners)
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17

Market Rasen

GOING: good

2.15 THROTHORPE SELLING HURDLE (£520: 2m) (11 runners)

- 1.45 DAMEHAM HANDICAP (3-y-o: £2,391: 1m) (18 runners)
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17

2.15 SKEWNESS 'JOLLY FISHERMAN' HURDLE (£575: 2m) (10)

- 1.45 DAMEHAM HANDICAP (3-y-o: £2,391: 1m) (18 runners)
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17

3.15 KILNICK HURDLE (3-y-o: £1,200: 5f) (10)

- 1.45 DAMEHAM HANDICAP (3-y-o: £2,391: 1m) (18 runners)
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17

4.0 SOUTH CHASE HURDLE (3-y-o: £1,200: 5f) (10)

- 1.45 DAMEHAM HANDICAP (3-y-o: £2,391: 1m) (18 runners)
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17

ASCOT

(Televised: (BBC1) 2.0, 2.35, 3.15)

GOING: good to firm

Total: Double 3.15, 4.20, Treble 2.35, 3.50, 4.50

2.0 LILY TREE NOVICE HURDLE (£2,248: 2m 4f) (17 runners)

- 1.45 DAMEHAM HANDICAP (3-y-o: £2,391: 1m) (18 runners)
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17

3.50 TRILLIUM HURDLE (£2,668: 2m) (9)

- 1.45 DAMEHAM HANDICAP (3-y-o: £2,391: 1m) (18 runners)
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17

4.20 MAHONIA HUNTER CHASE (amateurs: £2,407: 2m 4f) (11)

- 1.45 DAMEHAM HANDICAP (3-y-o: £2,391: 1m) (18 runners)
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17

2.35 ROYAL FERN NOVICE CHASE (£5,608: 3m) (11)

- 1.45 DAMEHAM HANDICAP (3-y-o: £2,391: 1m) (18 runners)
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17

2.0 KILNICK HURDLE (3-y-o: £1,200: 5f) (10)

- 1.45 DAMEHAM HANDICAP (3-y-o: £2,391: 1m) (18 runners)
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17

2.30 'TURN TO YOK' STAKES (2-y-o: £2,553: 5f) (10)

- 1.45 DAMEHAM HANDICAP (3-y-o: £2,391: 1m) (18 runners)
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17

2.00 DOMINANT 2.30 One Year Olds 3.00 Moulton Boys 3.30 Quailier Prince 4.00 Bluegaby 4.30 Fen Tiger

3.0 HOLSTEN DIAT PILS MAIDEN STAKES (3-y-o: £2,147: 1m 2f) (12)

- 1.45 DAMEHAM HANDICAP (3-y-o: £2,391: 1m) (18 runners)
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17

4.00 HESSE STAKES (£1,293: 1m 4f) (11)

- 1.45 DAMEHAM HANDICAP (3-y-o: £2,391: 1m) (18 runners)
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17

4.00 HESSE STAKES (£1,293: 1m 4f) (11)

- 1.45 DAMEHAM HANDICAP (3-y-o: £2,391: 1m) (18 runners)
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17

Kempton results

Going: Good to soft

2.30 JANUARY LADS STAKES (54: 188: 1m 4f)

- 1.45 DAMEHAM HANDICAP (3-y-o: £2,391: 1m) (18 runners)
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17

3.30 LARSEN STAKES (54: 188: 1m 4f)

- 1.45 DAMEHAM HANDICAP (3-y-o: £2,391: 1m) (18 runners)
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17

4.30 LARSEN STAKES (54: 188: 1m 4f)

- 1.45 DAMEHAM HANDICAP (3-y-o: £2,391: 1m) (18 runners)
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17

5.30 LARSEN STAKES (54: 188: 1m 4f)

- 1.45 DAMEHAM HANDICAP (3-y-o: £2,391: 1m) (18 runners)
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17

6.30 LARSEN STAKES (54: 188: 1m 4f)

- 1.45 DAMEHAM HANDICAP (3-y-o: £2,391: 1m) (18 runners)
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17

7.30 LARSEN STAKES (54: 188: 1m 4f)

- 1.45 DAMEHAM HANDICAP (3-y-o: £2,391: 1m) (18 runners)
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17

8.30 LARSEN STAKES (54: 188: 1m 4f)

- 1.45 DAMEHAM HANDICAP (3-y-o: £2,391: 1m) (18 runners)
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17

9.30 LARSEN STAKES (54: 188: 1m 4f)

- 1.45 DAMEHAM HANDICAP (3-y-o: £2,391: 1m) (18 runners)
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17
2.01 TOPHAM TAVENS (D) (P) Topham T. Farnham 3-7 P. Elmer 17

10.30 LARSEN STAKES (54: 188: 1m 4f)

Reagan blames Congress for foreign setbacks

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington

President Reagan has declared war on Congress for its failure to support his Administration's objectives in Lebanon and Central America and on arms control.

For the second time this week he has sought to blame Congress for recent foreign policy setbacks, notably in the Middle East. His earlier attack came during a White House press conference on Wednesday.

In a speech to the Georgetown Centre for Strategic and International Studies yesterday, he said second guessing by Congress about whether to keep American Marines in Beirut had severely undermined US policy in Lebanon.

He added that congressional wavering on the Kissinger commission's proposals on Central America was only encouraging the enemies of democracy who are determined to wear us down.

His speech, which was broadcast live by satellite to Europe, was essentially an appeal for bipartisan support for US foreign policy. Democrats and Republicans should stand united in patriotism, he declared.

What Mr Reagan appeared to be saying was that Congress should withhold public criticism of foreign policy initiatives undertaken by the President if American lives or interests were at stake.

The agony of living on borrowed time

Continued from page 1

"Whatever happens, it will have been worth it. All we are looking forward to now is a normal life, though I can hardly remember what normality is. I am just relieved that the operation is over. There was nothing wrong with her heart, though it has had to work overtime because of her lungs. But we were told it was less risky to transplant heart and lungs than just the lungs. I know well enough, despite the good start, that there is still an awful lot to be done."

When his wife has recovered Mr Barber, aged 29, hopes to take up the tenancy of a public house in south London - a

change in life of which his wife approves. She will remain in intensive care for about three weeks and for three months in all at Papworth, where her five-hour operation, the first there, was led by senior surgeon Mr John Wallwork. The couple are distressed for the relatives of the heart-lung donor - an anonymous woman from Birmingham - but happy for themselves.

Later yesterday, Mrs Barber was well enough to get out of bed and spend an hour in a chair, her husband at her side. A hospital spokesman said: "Her condition is stable and lungs are working well."

Grandstand faces blackout threat

Continued from page 1

watch for news of the next action on the screen.

The BBC's broadcasts returned to normal yesterday after the Thursday shutdown, ordered by television executives who felt that a total closure was preferable to a greatly depleted service of repeats and stock films.

The BBC now faces a backlog of 60 light entertainment and drama programmes which have been postponed or cancelled because of the strike.

The BBC refused yesterday to comment on the dispute except to say that programme schedules had returned to normal when the stoppage ended at midnight on Thursday.

Copies of a letter from Mr Bill Cotton, managing director of BBC Television service staff yesterday.

Mr Cotton wrote that any recurrence of Thursday's action would force the BBC to take action to protect the BBC against the consequences.

The letter adds that the BBC does not rule out arbitration on some aspects of the issue, but it will not accept the union's call for binding arbitration on the reorganization package for the scenery department, which would involve the loss of 160 jobs through voluntary redundancy and a saving of £1.7m a year in running costs.

However, Mr Cotton injected a note of optimism into the dispute when he reacted to union calls for negotiations.

"We are encouraged by today's reports that the ETA wish to negotiate and we hope that talks might be arranged early next week," Mr Cotton said.

● The BBC failed to gain a single top ten place in the latest viewing figures issued yesterday.

The ratings from Broadcasters Audience Research Board showed that, for the week ending April 1, the BBC's most popular programme was *Dallas* with 11.85 million viewers, 800,000 fewer than the figure for *This is Your Life* and *T J Hooker*, which tied for ninth place in the overall figures.

The independent television companies attracted 53.6 per cent of the total viewing audience.

Blackout delight, page 2



'Princess' for a night

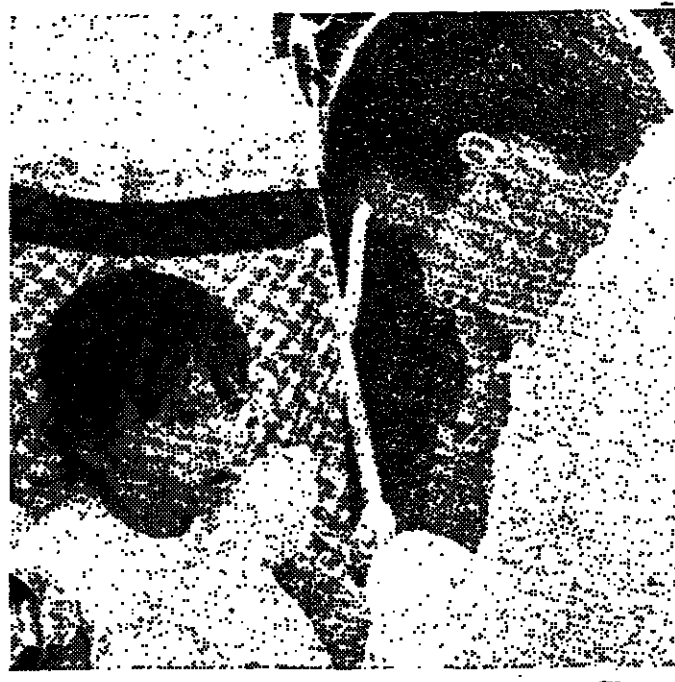
Continued from page 1

walkabout. He asked her which of the two dances, celebrating St Helena's 150th anniversary as a Crown Colony, she planned to attend. She replied she would ask him for a dance if she saw him.

Miss Yon, wearing a dark green blouse, dark trousers and a dark necklace, had been at the dance in the South Atlantic island's Paramount Cinema for nearly two hours before the Prince arrived. The Prince, wearing a light weight suit, stood on the edge of the crowd before spotting her.

"I could not believe it," she said afterwards. "I never really believed he was going to dance with me. I felt so embarrassed, but my friends congratulated me. He really is very cute."

In focus: Prince Andrew, the tourist.



In conversation: The Prince kneeling to speak to Shona Yon, aged 18 months, in Jamestown.

Letter from Nowa Huta

Violent overtones of a flawed vision

On Saturday evenings when the sun has set behind Lenin's statue, it starts to get lively in Nowa Huta. The battle lines form up in a way that resembles Brighton beach in the dimly remembered days of Mods and Rockers.

In the left corner, representing disillusion and despair, there are the punks with their Mohican haircuts, flannel shirts, their studded jackets and their versatile bicycle chains. The girls, in torn pink tights and black lipstick, stand slightly to one side.

In the right corner, a study in aggressive niceness, there are the poppers, prim in bowties and shining shoes, tossing back their fringed hair like Lippizaner horses.

Then the punks, sometimes assisted by "Nazis" - motorbike gangs who stick swastikas on their jeans - chase the poppers and beat them up. That is about the end of it until the next weekend.

Gang warfare has reached alarming (that is, Western) proportions in Nowa Huta, a town that was once designed to be the model socialist metropolis, a melting pot of happy workers.

Skilled workers from Silesia and peasants from villages throughout southern Poland converged on Nowa Huta after the war. Housing estates were thrown up and, initially at least, everybody owed his living to the huge Lenin steelworks.

It was to be a socialist counterpart to neighbouring Cracow, with its centuries of Catholic traditionalism and its well-grounded scepticism towards the Communist authorities.

But it was a flawed vision. Pressure grew to build churches in the town, but even the Church has not been able to establish a proper sense of community in the Nowa Huta young generation. Long after the Solidarity underground was reduced to a trickle of resistance in the rest of the country, Nowa Huta would have running street battles between teenagers tossing cobbles and bottles at columns of armoured riot police.

Now the fighting is for control of neighbourhood districts. The new estates in Kalinowa and Dabrowszów are divided into sectors and each one is contested by the gangs. Both sides are armed.

Teachers and officials fall into three categories: the bewildered, the panicked and the sceptical.

A few weeks before the violence began in earnest, the Cracow school superintendent had sent out a routine request to headmasters for names of youths involved in deviant "sub-cultures". One primary school reported that five boys had punk hair styles but claimed that they had been forced to have their hair cut by older pupils at other schools.

The Nowa Huta vocational school reported that one boy was bringing rice-flails (a simple weapon used in martial arts and football crowds) to school, and that another was flaunting Nazi emblems.

Then, suddenly, the fighting began and the teachers tried to sort out what was really happening in their community. Punks were setting fire to the hair of hippies (small groups of long-haired pacifists who live mainly in Cracow and deal in marijuana), but other punks seemed quite harmless, their main interest being in clothes, hair care (the characteristic tufts are maintained with a sugar-and-salt mix as well as dye bought on the black market) and visiting punk clubs.

Poppers looked as if they should be model pupils, with their elegant black jackets and blow-dried scalps, but they taunted the punks and tried to lure them into traps in "friendly" housing estates.

All this defies Marxist analysis. The teenagers seem to be escaping from the world of shortages and sacrifice into a world where the rules of style hold sway. Then, captives of their uniforms, they start to channel their energy into organising private armies and staging small wars.

A sociology professor from Poznan, Dr Krzysztof Kwasniewski, said in an interview recently that, although Polish youth was imitating Western trends, the ideology was turned upside down. The British and American punks "associate themselves with anti-imperialist trends", said the learned professor, "but Polish punks have exactly the opposite views."

Roger Boyes

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Solution of Puzzle No 16,393

Solution of Puzzle No 16,395

The Times Crossword Puzzle No 16,399

A prize of The Times Atlas of the World (comprehensive edition) will be given for the first three correct solutions opened next Thursday. Entries should be addressed to: The Times, Saturday Crossword Competition, 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9YT. The winners and solution will be published next Saturday.

The winners of last Saturday's competition are: Peter Wood, 17 The Lakes Road, Boreley, Worcestershire; Mr G. R. Blake, The Old Ashes, Cusworth, New South Wales; Mrs E. Hay, Ravenswood Hall, Creswell, Gullane, East Lothian, Scotland.

Name: _____

Address: _____

ACROSS

1 Pimento is quite a part of a small girl's make-up (8).

5 Cargo thrown out of planes before noon (6).

9 Another place where some may be kicked (8).

10 Tea being served for the ferryman (6).

12 Wader appears for instance to soak (5).

13 Unlike Shelley's violets and Dogberry's comparisons (9).

14 Something outstanding for underground crane replacement (12).

18 Free reception defect repaired free in centre (12).

21 Might one call a Tower of London warden such a beast? (9).

23 Many a bridge supporter made from this wood (5).

24 In good heart, left city of wine (6).

25 So lose friends with a lie about an erupting (8).

27 Whimsical note from Peacock Castle (8).

DOWN

1 Served up tea round the chimney - it works like a charm (6).

2 Half a decade of brilliance (6).

3 Quaintly endure signs of hesitation by a workman (9).

4 Horse-borne cereal? Something revolutionary to get your teeth into (4,2,3,3).

6 Sleep-inducing, the medium of wireless once (5).

7 Army rank for a conductor, we hear (8).

8 Clergyman one's seen in church (8).

11 Cheat in duplicate bridge? (6-6).

15 Remember about daily prayer (9).

16 Certainty concerning a medicinal bark supplier (8).

17 Flower line-up in the beginning (8).

19 First and last thing one draws (6).

20 That's holding a note of menace (6).

22 One cuts out under stress (5).

CONCISE CROSSWORD PAGE 19

Today's events

New exhibitions

F W Frohawk, artist and naturalist, National Museum of Wales, Cathays Park, Cardiff: Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2.30 to 5 (until April 30).

Drawings and sculpture 1960 to 84 by George Wagstaffe, Herbert Art Gallery and Museum, Jordan Well, Coventry: Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, Sun 2 to 5 (until May 7).

Spring exhibition, Campden Pottery and Art Gallery, Leashorne, Chipping Campden, Gloucestershire: Mon to Sat 9 to 6, closed Sun (until May 7).

That's the Shell - That's the Art, Council touring exhibition, Ashington Gallery, Lord St, Southport: Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Thurs and Sat 10 to 1, closed Sun (until May 6).

Four Rooms rooms designed by Anthony Caro, Marc Chagall, Howard Chandler Christy and Richard Hamilton, Wolverhampton Art Gallery, Lichfield Street: Mon to Sat 10 to 6, closed Sun (until May 13).

Smoking Antiques an exhibition of smoking paraphernalia from Europe from the mid-sixteenth century, Gloucester Folk Museum, 99-103 Westgate St: Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun (and public holidays) (until May 19).

Rugs and hangings for walls and floors, Festival Gallery, 1 Pierrepoint Place, Bath: Tues to Sat 11 to 5, closed Sun and Mon (until April 28).

Etchings by Merlyn Evans, 1930 to 1973, Newport Museum and Art Gallery, John Frost Sq: Mon to Thurs 10 to 5.30, Fri 10 to 4.30, Sat 9.30 to 4, closed Sun (until May 12).

Paintings by Vivien Bromley, Gloucester City Museum and Art Gallery, Brunswick Rd: Mon to Sat 10 to 5, closed Sun and bank holidays (until May 12).

Music

Concert by BBC Welsh Symphony Orchestra, St David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30.

Concert by Peterborough Sinfonia Orchestra, Kettering Parish Church, 7.30.

Concert by Hallé Orchestra and Sheffield Philharmonic Chorus, Ely Hall, Barkers Pool, Sheffield, 7.30.

Concert by Sheffield Youth Orchestra with Glemiside Male Voice Choir, Christ Church, Brookhouse Hill, Fulwood Road, Sheffield, 7.30.

Concert by Hallam Sinfonia, Firth Hall, Western Bank, Sheffield, 7.30.

A concert of Sacred Music by Musica Ficta, St Peter's Church, York Place, London Road, Brighton, 7.30.

Concert by St Botolph's Music Society, 8.00pm.

Concert by Pendryus Male Voice Choir with Stuart Burrows, Gavin Parry and John Samuel (piano), St David's Hall, Cardiff, 7.30.

Concert by Peterborough Sinfonia Orchestra, Towngate Theatre, Basildon, 7.30.

Bury St Edmunds cathedral, joint concert by the Abbey Consort of Voices and the Kirby Consort of Voices, 7.30.

General

Dafydd Day at Langley Park, Norfolk, 2 to 6.

Roads

Wales and West A30 (Cornwall) lane closures on the Launceston bypass between Launceston and Indian Queens, A55 (Croyde) Chester to Colwyn Bay, Ewloe flyover construction Holywell bypass resurfacing, 24 hour temporary signs, A30 Salisbury to Stockbridge, Wiltshire, temporary lights at tunnel bridges, Salisbury and at Winterslow.

North: Stockport marshes: Tomorrow, some road closures and partial road closures between 9am and 6pm diversions will be signed, delays expected. M63: Lane closures north and southbound between junction 5 (Atrichman) between 8 and 3.30pm, today and tomorrow, M61: North and southbound carriageway will be closed at junction 6 (the A6027 near Wigan) for bridge inspection today between 9am and 2.30pm diversions.

Scotland: A75 At Threave Bridge west of Castle Douglas, Kirkcubright bridge damage, single lane traffic with lights (24 hours), A65 (Dundee) Riverside Drive at Tay railway bridge, bridge works, westbound carriageway reduced to single lane, no right turn westbound into Riverside approach, A82: South of Drummedochit, road realignment, single lane traffic, temporary lights.

Gloucestershire: Abbotswood Stow-on-the-Wold: heather and stream gardens, spring bulbs, rhododendrons, fine trees and flowering shrubs, herbaceous and formal gardens, 2 to 6.

Northamptonshire: Hinton-in-the-Hedges, 5 of Brackley, three gardens with combined garden, 11 Duck End; 4 acre, young garden, 11 acres, shrubs, herbaceous, The Coach House, 4 acre, spring flowers, wild woodland; Seasons, 2 acre, informal garden, old kitchen garden; 2 to 6.

Gloucestershire: Stanway House, Winchcombe; off A46, Broadway-Winchcombe road at Tiddington roundabout, 20 acres, bulbs, trees; 2 to 6.

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Gardens open

Dorset: Compton Acres, Canford Cliffs, Poole, Dorset; 7 interesting gardens in one, Japanese garden, palm court and many interesting plants, daily until October; 10.30 to 6.30.

Wiltshire: Bowood House and gardens, Calne, Wiltshire; 100 acres, 18th century, rhododendrons and a large collection of trees, shrubs and other plants; P: daily; closed Mondays except bank holidays; 11 to 6.

TOMORROW

Berkshire: Old Rectory Cottage, Tidmarsh, m S of Pangbourne, medium sized garden; wild garden, spring bulbs, shrubs; P: 2 to 6.

Buckinghamshire: Spindrift, Jordans, off A40 midway between Beaconsfield and Gerrards Cross; 2.5 acre garden, fine trees, rock garden, vegetable garden; P: 11 to 6.

Devon: Vicar's Mead, Hayes Lane, East Budleigh, 2m N of Budleigh Salterton; 3 acre garden, wide range of shrubs and plants in an unusual setting; P: 2 to 6.

Hampshire: Pennington Chase, Lower Pennington, Lymington; 4 acres, spring bulbs, flowering shrubs; 2 to 6.

Gloucestershire: Stanway House, Winchcombe; off A46, Broadway-Winchcombe road at Tiddington roundabout, 20 acres, bulbs, trees; 2 to 6.

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Weather

A weakening trough of low pressure will lie from NW Scotland to S England.

6am to midnight

London, SE, central S England, Midlands, E Angles: Rather cloudy, rain in places, becoming brighter, showery with NW light to moderate; max temp 5C (45F).

E, central N, NE England: Sunny intervals scattered showers; wind NW moderate; max temp 5C (45F).

Churned showers, SW England, S Wales, N Ireland: Sunny intervals, scattered showers; wind N, light; max temp 5C (45F).

N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Borders, Edinburgh, Dundee, Aberdeen, SW, NW, NE Scotland, Glasgow, Central Scotland: Heavy rain, drizzle, drizzle, drizzle; cloudy, rain, rain in places, becoming brighter, showery later; wind N light to moderate; max temp 5C (45F).

Outlook for tomorrow and Monday: Passing drizzle and drizzle generally but with a chance of showers, rather cold with light frost.

SEA Passages: S, North Sea, Straits of Dover: Wind N light to moderate, showers, visibility moderate, sea slight, English Channel (S, St George's Channel, Wind N light, mainly rain, visibility moderate or good, sea smooth, Irish Sea Wind N light, rain at first then showers, visibility moderate, sea smooth).

Today

Sun rises: 6.22 am Sun sets: 7.44 pm

Moon rises: 9.13 am Moon sets: 1.34 am

Tomorrow

Sun rises: 6.20 am Sun sets: 7.46 pm

Moon rises: 10.02 am Moon sets: 2.41 pm

First Quarter: Tomorrow

Lighting-up time

London 6.14 pm to 6.50 am

Bristol 6.24 pm to 6.50 am

Edinburgh 6.24 pm to 6.50 am

Manchester 6.24 pm to 6.50 am

Perthshire 6.24 pm to 6.50 am

Around Britain

Sun Rain NW Rain NE Rain SE Rain SW Rain</